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Not a martyr, not a hero, just a MURDERER

Luigi pleads guilty, faces life in prison for depraved assassination

Luigi Mangione, who became a twisted idol to a cult of young people who celebrated his assassination of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, pleaded guilty yesterday to federal charges. He faces life in prison when he is sentenced Dec. 18, though the plea may spare him from New York charges brought by DA Alvin Bragg.

PAGES 4-7

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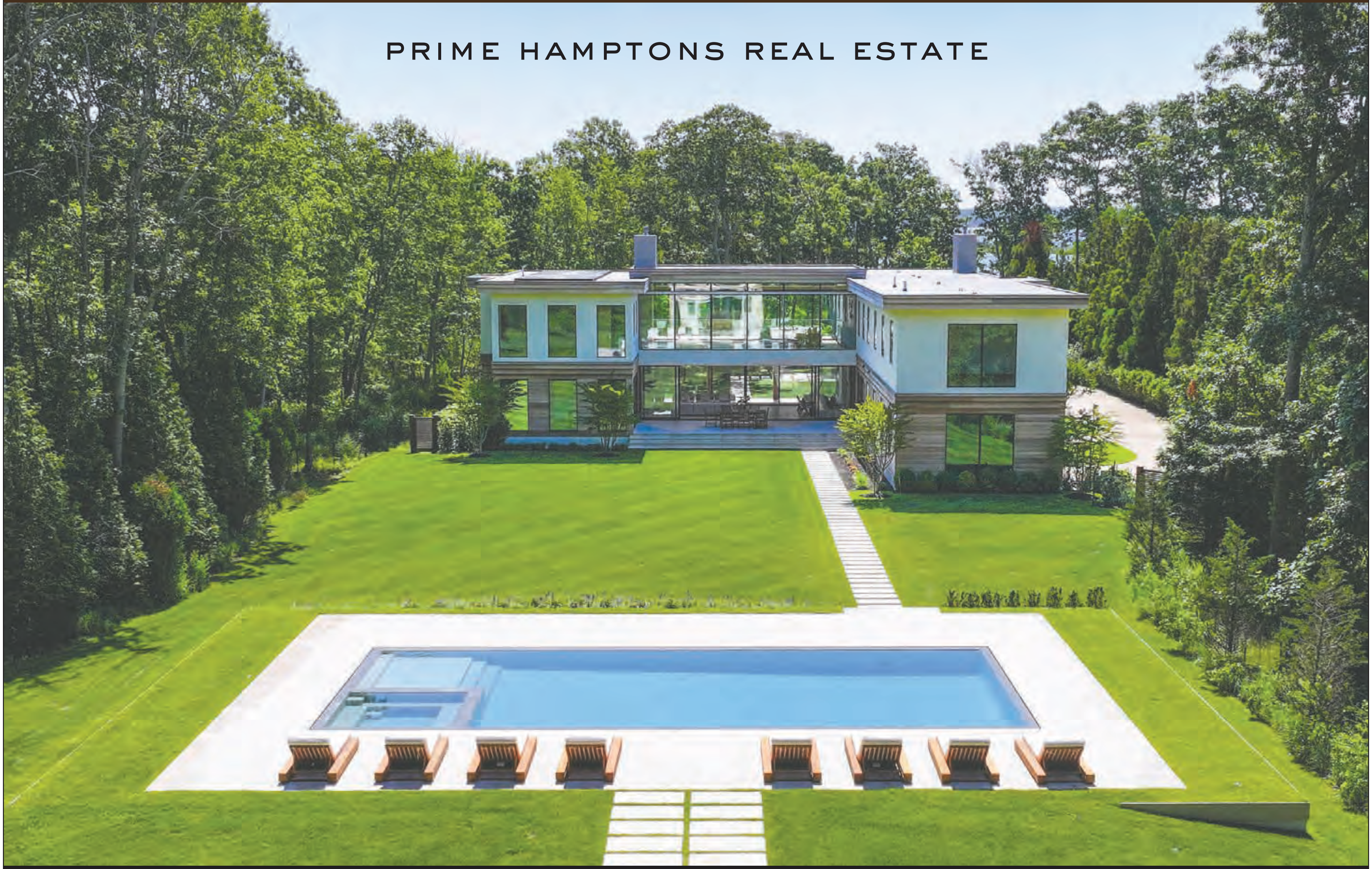

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$tinking it rich in sewer

They turned crap into gold.

A routine renovation job in Belgium took an unexpected turn on Tuesday after builders happened upon a gold hoard worth over $10 million while installing a sewer system.

"Our first reaction was actually disbelief," an 18-year-old student worker named Kobe told local media outlet VRT while recalling the unexpected haul. "Of course, we hadn't expected to find gold."

His crew had been tasked with overhauling a building in the Flemish community of Sint-Gillis-Dendermonde, around a 40-minute drive from Brussels.

The workers were reportedly removing the foundation so they could lay a sewer pipe when they "suddenly saw something lying there," Kobe recounted.

Initially believing it was a cache of 1-euro coins, the crew quickly realized that was not the case after spotting a gold nugget.

All told, the stash of ingots and bullion amounted to around $10.4 million.

Unfortunately for them, this was not a case of finders keepers — the crew was forced to hand over the precious metals to the police, who explained to them that pocketing it was verboten.

Ben Cost

Baaahhhd commuters

Two mischievous pygmy goats strolled onto a Portland, Ore., public bus during rush hour recently — in a wild fare-evasion effort that was caught on camera.

The head-turning ordeal took place during the morning commute at 7:40 a.m. Tuesday, The Oregonian reported.

The viral video posted by the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon shows two pygmy goats casually following straphangers onto a bus before the doors closed.

The driver spotted the cheeky pair and reopened the doors to let them out.

Ella Morrison

FASHIONABLY FAMISHED

Pros roast Kerr's wild diet

MAD MENU: Model Miranda Kerr shared details of her extreme diet, and let's just say it sounds like a raw deal with no eggs, dairy, bread and more everyday essentials.

By ALLIE YANG

Want to eat like a supermodel? We hope you don't like bread.

Or eggs. Or sushi. Or even kale.

Miranda Kerr, 43, recently broke down the details of her insane diet on Kristin Cavallari's podcast, "Let's Be Honest," and social media users were . . . stunned, to say the least.

"That diet sounds miserable," wrote one TikTok user. "I am depressed listening to her," said another.

Kerr's "extreme biohacking" means she doesn't eat eggs, rice, bread or dairy. Instead it's squash, carrots, caviar (she is married to Evan Spiegel, the billionaire co-founder of Snapchat, after all) and, oddly enough, venison.

She also allows herself some marshmallow tea, which isn't as delicious as it sounds — it's a caffeine-free drink made from the roots of a marshmallow plant and isn't sweet.

'Tired all the time'

Even experts weren't impressed.

"She's probably just tired all the time," said Jess Baker, who has a masters in nutritional science. "She's probably in a s--ty mood . . . she's probably not s--ting regularly enough. She probably poops once every few days."

Ultimately, Miranda's eating habits are just too limiting, according to dietitian Sophia Deahl.

"Miranda genuinely seems to care about eating for her health . . . but her diet is very restrictive," Deahl told The Post.

By not eating bread, dairy, wheat, eggs and seed oils, she might not get enough protein, fiber, calcium, iron, B vitamins and omega-3s — and her overall energy could be lacking.

Plus, there's the issue of sustainability. "The more foods that are 'off-limits,' the harder it can become to eat flexibly in real life — at restaurants, while traveling, at social events, or simply when you're craving something different," Deahl said.

Deahl's biggest takeaway is you can get the same anti-inflammatory benefits of a diet like this without all the restrictions.

"I'd recommend eating plenty of whole foods, vegetables, fruit, nuts and seeds, quality proteins, seafood and minimally processed foods," she said. "But I would not automatically recommend eliminating wheat, dairy, eggs, carbohydrates or other food groups unless there is an individual reason to do so."

What Miranda won't eat:

- Eggs
- Dairy
- Wheat
- Seed oils (e.g. canola oil, soybean oil and sunflower oil)
- Bread (though she allows her kids to eat sourdough)
- Rice
- Spinach
- Kale
- Sushi (over concerns about parasites)
- Mass-produced meat

What she will eat:

- Noni juice
- Marshmallow tea
- A few tablespoons of coconut yogurt, with local honey
- Banana (just a little) and mangoes
- "Mold-free, lead free" coffee with Erewhon coconut milk and maple syrup
- Squash, carrots, parsnips (for carbs)
- Caviar
- Venison, bison, lamb and turkey
- Salmon (but only a little due to mercury concerns)
- Carob as a chocolate substitute
- Lemon balm tea
- Olive oil (but only on salads — for cooking, she uses coconut oil and avocado oil)

EXECUTED ON 54TH STREET

LUIGI'S BOUND

Pleads guilty to murdering Rx executive

By BEN KOCHMAN,
KYLE SCHNITZER
and MATT TROUTMAN

Luigi Mangione confessed to the cold-blooded killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson on Friday, pleading guilty to federal charges as the slain executive's widow wept silently in the courtroom gallery.

"On the morning of Dec. 4, 2024, I shot Mr. Thompson in Manhattan, and he died," Mangione, 28, said matter-of-factly as a Manhattan federal court judge accepted his plea to two federal stalking counts that each carry a potential life sentence.

"When I did so, I understood that my actions would place him in fear of death or serious bodily injury," Mangione said. "I knew what I was doing was illegal."

Tears streamed down the cheeks of Thompson's widow, Paulette, as Mangione methodically detailed his plot to assassinate the 50-year-old dad of two over grudges about the health-care industry.

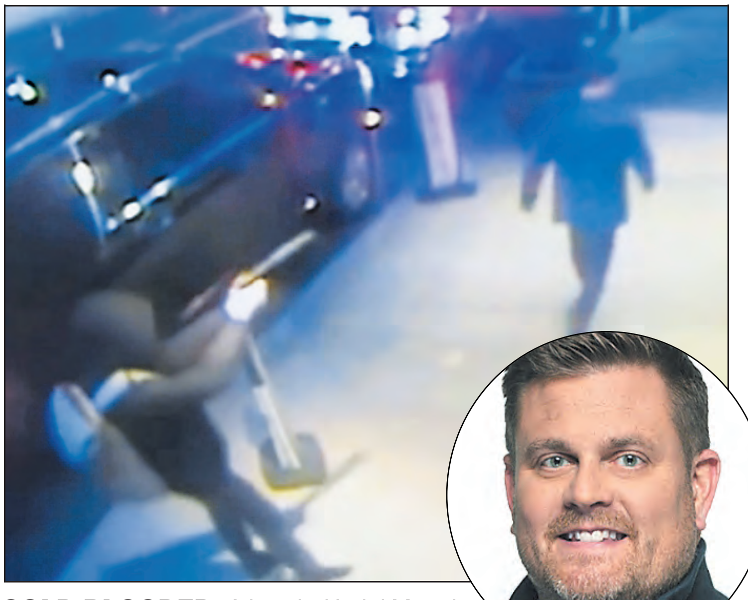
Reveals stalk tricks

"After years of enduring severe pain from a broken back, navigating obstacles of the health-insurance system and witnessing some of the experiences of countless others, I learned UnitedHealthcare would be holding its annual investor conference in New York City," Mangione said.

The University of Pennsylvania graduate described how he made a 3D-printed gun, equipped it with a silencer and magazine and used a ruse to find out where the conference would be taking place before shooting Thompson as he arrived early to the New York Hilton in Midtown.

Mangione, who comes from a prominent Baltimore-area family, drew glares from Thompson's relatives as he walked into the courtroom minutes earlier, shackled at the feet but without handcuffs and wearing a beige prison jumpsuit with a long-sleeved white shirt rolled up to his elbows.

The Manhattan US Attorney's Office said it will urge the judge to send Mangione to prison for the rest of his life when he is sentenced on Dec. 18.



COLD-BLOODED: A hooded Luigi Mangione uses a 3D-printed gun with a silencer in December 2024 to fatally shoot UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson (inset) on his way to a Midtown convention.

"Mangione attempted to send a public message through violence," said Jamie McDonald, the head of the Southern District of New York, in a press conference on the courthouse steps.

"But the message that emerges today is very different: Violence is not a legitimate instrument to promote any political or social message," McDonald said. "Those who resort to violence in an effort to advance their beliefs will be prosecuted, convicted and put in jail."

The admitted assassin's plea came just weeks before jury selection in his state case — where he's still charged with second-degree murder and illegal weapons possession — was set to begin on Sept. 8. The fate of the state case was not immediately clear Friday, with Mangione's lawyers filing a motion to dismiss it on the grounds of "double jeopardy," in which a person cannot be convicted twice for the same crime.

"It was a single tragic event, yet he's being persecuted twice for the same conduct," Mangione's attorney Karen Friedman Agnifilo said outside the courthouse.

State-charges debate

But Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said it was ready to fight against that argument and urge the state judge to move forward with the trial.

"While federal sentencing is pending, we are prepared to litigate the defense motions. The Manhattan DA's Office remains committed to seeking justice for

Widow faces felon

IN MOURNING: The slain health-care CEO's widow, Paulette Thompson, arrives at Manhattan federal court on Friday.

Getty Images

1st time appearance

By KYLE SCHNITZER,
BEN KOCHMAN
and NATALIE O'NEILL

The sobbing widow of slain UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson came face-to-face with her husband's killer for the first time in court as he emotionlessly admitted to shooting him dead at point-blank range in Manhattan two years ago.

Paulette Thompson looked stoic in sunglasses and a blue dress as she was escorted to a black SUV with other relatives after witnessing Luigi Mangione, 28, admit to gunning down her husband in cold blood.

While the 53-year-old physical therapist stayed mum about the dramatic development, her family later released a statement calling it a critical step toward holding the self-styled martyr from Maryland accountable.

"Today's guilty plea marks an important step toward justice for Brian and for our family. While nothing will ease the pain of losing him, we are grateful that the federal justice system has held the person responsible for this heinous act accountable," the statement said. "Now we look to the court to ensure that sentencing reflects the severity of this crime."

Family members of Thompson, including his elderly mother, walked quickly outside the Manhattan courthouse and declined to answer questions from the media. Thompson's two children were not present.

As they left, a ghoul riding a one-wheeled electric skateboard repeatedly shouted, "America loves Luigi!"

Earlier in the morning, Paulette sobbed silently in the courtroom as Mangione confessed, "I shot Mr. Thompson in Manhattan, and he died."

Paulette filed into the front row of the courthouse gallery with other members of Thompson's family Friday morning. She glared at Mangione as he was led into the courtroom minutes later wearing tan jail garb, but he didn't appear to look in the widow's direction.

Paulette, who goes by "Pauley," started tearing up and dabbed her eyes with a tissue before looking away from her husband's killer.

FOR LOCKUP

JUSTICE: After a manhunt led to his arrest in Pennsylvania, Luigi Mangione's return to New York City in cuffs to face trial and subsequent court appearances has become a spectacle.

Robert Miller

Mr. Thompson and his family," a spokesperson said in a statement.

Mangione had been set to begin his federal trial in January on the two federal counts — interstate stalking resulting in death and stalking through use of interstate facilities resulting in death. An earlier charge of federal murder — for which Mangione could have faced the death penalty — was dismissed this winter.

US District Judge Margaret Garnett warned Mangione at Friday's hearing that he could end up serving any state sentence consecutive to his federal one.

He also faces life in prison on the state charges.

Mangione softly replied "yes" as Garnett asked him a series of questions designed to ensure that he understood the legal specifics of his plea. He nodded his head slightly when she told him that he could face a maximum sentence of life behind bars.

Mangione also revealed in court that he even posed as an investor at a firm managing $50 billion in assets to UnitedHealthcare leadership in order to score details about the fateful investor conference.

He said he had never been hospitalized for mental illness and that he was taking trazodone, a prescription medication primarily used to treat depression, in order to help him sleep.

The Maryland prep-school grad reportedly underwent back surgery in mid-2023 before traveling to Asia early the following year, apparently cutting off his relatives and friends. His family had filed a missing-person report in November 2024, the month before the shocking slaying.

Closure for CEO kin

Thompson's killing spurred a small army of twisted supporters, mostly young women, for Mangione, some of whom have cheered Thompson's death amid widespread anger toward America's broken healthcare system.

McDonald slammed the Mangione fans in his remarks Friday.

"We live in a civilized society governed by the rule of law. We debate. We disagree. We protest. We do not commit murder," the US attorney told reporters.

Mangione had led authorities on a dramatic five-day manhunt before local cops in Altoona, Pa., nabbed him Dec. 9, 2024, while he was eating breakfast at a local McDonald's.

He has been locked up at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn.

Prosecutors said he penned a "manifesto" detailing his motive to kill Thompson in order to "rebel against the deadly, greed-fueled health-insurance cartel."

He left behind bullet casings at the scene with the words "delay" and "deny" etched into them, a nod to language insurers allegedly use to dodge paying out customers' claims.

Additional reporting by Khristina Narizhnaya and Chris Nesi

Tricks used to target victim

Admitted killer Luigi Mangione revealed Friday that he posed as a UnitedHealthcare investor to track down and shoot CEO Brian Thompson in the sick murder scheme.

The disclosure came as Mangione, 28, read a statement in Manhattan federal court detailing his December 2024 assassination plot against Thompson, 50, as a meticulously planned act of revenge.

Mangione said after becoming disgruntled by the nation's health-insurance industry, he learned UnitedHealthcare was holding its annual investor conference in New York that month.

"Before traveling to New York, I used a 3D printer to make a gun. I equipped the gun with a silencer and a magazine," he told the court. "I traveled to New York to UnitedHealth with the intent to shoot Brian Thompson."

Mangione said he went to Manhattan in November but didn't know the exact location where the conference would be held.

"I then emailed UnitedHealthcare leadership posing as an investor at a firm managing $50 billion in assets and requesting information to [the] health conference," Mangione said, sitting at the defense table. "Unlike my previous interactions with insurers, I received an immediate response within an hour."

Mangione said he used info from that email to find the location and fatally shoot the father of two outside the New York Hilton Midtown on Dec. 4, 2024, as he arrived early to attend the conference.

The cold-blooded killer said he hatched the murder plot after suffering severe back pain and growing furious at the health-insurance company.

"After years of enduring severe pain from a broken back, navigating obstacles of the health-insurance system and witnessing some of those experiences of countless others, I learned United Healthcare would be holding its annual investor conference in New York City."

Ben Kochman and Kyle Schnitzer

EXECUTED ON 54TH STREET

‘Bragg’ing rights lost?

NY may lose its shot

By PRISCILLA DeGREGORY
and KYLE SCHNITZER

Luigi Mangione may never be convicted of murder following his bombshell decision to plead guilty to federal stalking charges Friday — thanks to “creative lawyering” that leaves his state case hanging in the balance, experts told The Post.

Just hours after the health-care-hating pretty boy copped to charges in Manhattan federal court, which could land him life behind bars, his bulldog legal team filed papers asking to have his separate state murder case tossed out over double jeopardy.

It’s a technical move that could cost Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg a marquee conviction in one of the biggest cases of his career.

“It’s very creative lawyering by his lawyers to do this,” said Mark Bederow, a veteran Big Apple attorney and former Manhattan DA prosecutor. “The loser here is the Manhattan DA.”

Mangione’s attorneys Marc Agnifilo and wife Karen Friedman Agnifilo argue that trying the 28-year-old killer on a state case — on charges of second-degree murder and various firearms counts — would constitute double jeopardy. Double jeopardy laws protect people from being prosecuted twice for the same crime.

‘Magic language’

They say that although the charges Mangione faced in the state and federal cases were different, they stemmed from the same crime — the cold-blooded 2024 killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson.

Former prosecutor Neama Rahmani explained the Empire State has a special law that “says that there cannot be a second or subsequent prosecution in New York State Court arising from the same transaction or occurrence as a previous case.

DA ALVIN BRAGG

“So that’s the magic language, the same transaction or occurrence,” he said.

‘Feds botched case’

Both lawyers said it’s likely that Mangione will see the state murder charges thrown out.

“It is essentially the same facts,” Bederow said of the state and federal cases.

The only move that Bragg’s office has is to argue the circumstances of the murder charges are different from those in the stalking charges, the lawyers said.

Rahmani said the feds “botched” their case and in turn “sabotaged and torpedoed” Bragg’s case.

Federal prosecutors lost their bid to seek the death penalty against Mangione, and the murder and firearms charges they mounted were also struck down — all of which should have prompted the feds to dismiss the leftover stalking charges, Rahmani explained.

“The case was completely gutted,” the lawyer said. “They should have dismissed the case and let the state [case] proceed.”

“There’s a very good chance that the state murder charges are going to be dismissed,” Rahmani said.

Swooning airheads say Sick cult of idiotic fangirls

KIRSTEN FLEMING

HE’S guilty as sin.

Luigi Mangione has now admitted his role in the brazen murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson back in December of 2024.

“I shot Mr. Thompson in Manhattan, and he died,” Mangione declared Friday morning in Manhattan federal court.

Those chilling words should put the 28-year-old behind bars for life.

However, among his depraved army of fangirls, Mangione’s guilty plea only bolsters his status as a righteous warrior.

As one self-declared “Mangionista,” 27-year-old Abril Rios, said outside the courthouse: “I see it more of a revolutionary act of protest, the likes of which we haven’t seen since the Civil Rights era.”

Another dimwit gushed that she and the killer used the same sleeping medication, calling it “a little bonding moment.”

These people who treated Mangione’s twisted manifesto — in which he seemingly admired headlines about the murder that “convey[ed] a greedy bastard that had it coming” — as their modern-day bible will say he’s a hero and a martyr for a greater cause.

Uncivilized society

But the preppy rich kid turned cold-blooded murderer is nothing but a sad-sack loser who ruined his own life — and the lives of the Thompson family, including his two sons who were just 16 and 19 at the time of his death.

Mangione’s brazen assassination of Thompson on a Midtown street also shattered a fragile sense of security for anyone with success, as his shots declared war and open season on individuals with a high net worth or any sort of perceived power.

A civilized society cannot

Lev Radin/ZUMA / SplashNews.com

murder a ‘revolutionary act of protest’

BIZARRO: Supporters of Luigi Mangione — aka the “Mangionistas” — flock to the courthouse Friday hoping to see their demented hero, including Abril Rios (below), and a microphone-wielding one calling herself Chaos V (left).

function this way — and Mangione must pay.

Days after the murder, the lowlife was arrested at a Pennsylvania McDonald’s, a development that should have brought us a sense of relief.

Instead, the aftermath was almost as horrifying as Thompson’s killing. People cheered this executioner.

Some were besotted with his swarthy good looks, others by his willingness to take out a healthcare CEO — a complicated industry that has become increasingly expensive and some argue inhumane.

I’ve interviewed some of Mangione’s most ardent supporters, who have seemingly shown more devotion to a killer than to steady employment.

There was the trio of insane women whom City Hall shamefully gave press credentials that granted them access and credibility. There were cretins in Super Mario Bros. costumes and Luigi merch. I met a woman who traveled from New Hampshire to perform her original song, “Delulu for Lulu.”

I can confirm that she was certifiably delulu.

Many tried to rationalize Mangione’s action as a necessary spark of resistance and change.

‘That’s the way it is’

Thompson’s assassination at Mangione’s hands, they argued, finally forced a much needed dialogue about the state of healthcare in this country.

On Friday, superfan Christina Marani told The Post: “In a way, it’s really unfortunate that someone had to die to spark the conversations that we’re now having, but unfortunately that’s the way it is.”

But I have yet to see any productive conversations about policy or pragmatic solutions — only bloodthirsty celebrations of wanton murder and the elevation of a loathsome fool as some sort of religious figure.

It’s also exposed the depravity infesting leftist political discourse.

Just a few months ago, in an interview with The New York Times, leftist streamer Hasan Piker explained the adoration of Mangione by invoking the words of communist Friedrich Engels. Thompson, Piker said, was guilty of a “tremendous amount of social murder . . .

“Because of the pervasive pain that the private healthcare system had created for the average American, I saw so many people immediately understand why this death had taken place,” Piker said.

But we need to snuff out a dangerous ideology that celebrates political violence.

Today should belong to the grieving family of Thompson, whose pain has been lost in this circus. They’re the real victims.

Appearing at court for the first time, widow Paulette Thompson sobbed as Mangione spoke. She and her sons later released a statement calling the plea “an important step toward justice for Brian and for our family. While nothing will ease the pain of losing him, we are grateful that the federal justice system has held the person responsible for this heinous act accountable.”

I hope they find peace — and that Mangione never knows a moment of it.

Uncle of victim: Yes, give Luigi life!

The uncle of slain UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson wants Luigi Mangione to get “what he deserves” — life in prison — after the confessed killer pleaded guilty to federal charges on Friday.

Bruce Thompson, brother of the murdered healthcare executive’s father, told The Times of London the family hopes the judge throws the book at Mangione, 28, when he’s sentenced on two federal stalking counts that each carry a potential life sentence.

“I hope he gets what he deserves,” Bruce told the outlet.

“There’s still a lot of legal hassle we have to go through,” the 79-year-old uncle added. “We’ll see what December 18 brings — we hope he gets the max.”

The Thompson family, several of whom were in court Friday including the victim’s weeping widow, Paulette, learned several days ago a plea deal was coming.

However, “seeing it actually happen . . . it’s been an overwhelming morning,” Bruce said of Mangione’s confession to the cold-blooded assassination of the 50-year-old dad of two over grudges about the healthcare industry.

Mangione matter-of-factly told the judge at Friday’s hearing, “On the morning of December 4, 2024, I shot Mr. Thompson in Manhattan, and he died.”

“When I did so, I understood that my actions would place him in fear of death or serious bodily injury,” Mangione said. “I knew what I was doing was illegal.”

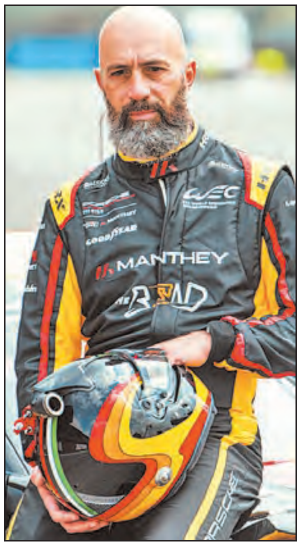
The grieving uncle said he was “glad to hear him say it.”

Ella Morrison

AFP via Getty Images; Kirsten Fleming/NY Post; Lone Pine Press for NY Post

Anti-Israel $$ probe

Zo pal's $100M fund under fire



Getty Images

GLAM-DAMNED: Feds are reportedly probing an anti-Israel nonprofit run by glamorous Mayor Mamdani ally Bassema Yousef (right), Basil Qunibi (above) and Yasser Shahin (left).

By JAMES FRANEY

The feds are probing a shadowy nonprofit's $100 million anti-Israel "war chest" allegedly amassed by a glamorous ally of Mayor Mamdani, a racecar-driving billionaire and a Texas private equity mogul, The Post has learned.

The Department of Homeland Security is investigating a UK-based outfit known only as PFF, scrutinizing whether it illegally funneled donor funds to Al-Haq, a Palestinian group sanctioned by the US in September.

Two sources with direct knowledge said federal agents are investigating more broadly whether the fund's organizers employ opaque UK corporate entities to obscure cross-border financial flows.

One insider said the "linchpin" for the group's fundraising is Bassema Yousef, a New York-born Dem donor who lives in the swanky London neighborhood in Kensington.

The Mamdani ally is a former Al Jazeera staffer and Booz Allen Hamilton consultant who has regularly forked out to the campaigns of Israel-bashing Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich).

'Well connected'

Insiders described Yousef as "a well-connected operative who bridges the gap between State Department veterans, management consultants and elite progressive spheres."

They added she is a close friend of Mamdani spin doctor Waleed Shahid and Zara Rahim, a senior adviser to the left-winger's winning campaign in November.

Yousef's Threads account features a string of unhinged anti-Israel tirades in which she unloads on CBS correspondent Matt Gutman, who is Jewish, because his network "is owned and run by Zionist [sic]".

Yousef allegedly established PFF with the backing of Palestinian-Australian motorsports magnate Yasser Shahin and the Austin, Texas-based buyout executive Basil Qunibi.

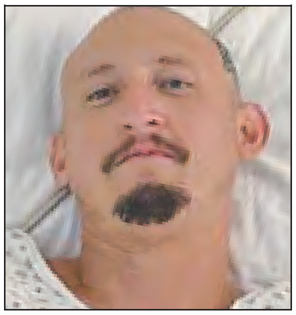
Shahin — a 49-year-old racing driver who has competed in the 24 Hours of Le Mans — is a director of the multibillion-dollar Peregrine Corporation. He owns a stake in the Australian retail giant he inherited from his late father Fred, filings show.

UK corporate filings confirm Adelaide-born Shahin's role in establishing PFF's London entities. PFF has a nonprofit based in Delaware, according to the IRS website.

Other players

Qunibi, meanwhile, serves as the chief executive of Atom Investors and sits on the board of the World Food Program USA. He previously founded Novus Partners, a pioneering portfolio intelligence platform used by top institutional investors. There is no suggestion from DHS sources that Atom is involved with PFF.

A spokesperson at Prosek Partners, handling queries on behalf of Qunibi, broadly denied the allegations.



AARON RODRIGUEZ
Samaritan hurt in Queens.

Stabbed trying to help man

A good Samaritan was stabbed in the stomach when he tried to stop an unruly trio from ganging up on an elderly man on a Queens subway platform — but the thick-skinned New Yorker said he's "still gonna call it out" when he spots shady behavior on the rails.

Aaron Rodriguez, 35, a hotel chef from Briarwood, told The Post he was on his way home from a late night with friends around 5 a.m. Thursday when he spotted the three suspects harassing the senior on the southbound No. 7 train platform of the 82nd Street-Jackson Heights station.

"They were just yelling s--t at [the older guy] — calling him names and this and that," Rodriguez said. "I was like, 'Leave the guy alone!' "

"They just started fighting with me and just started scrapping, so I did my best to hold it down to defend myself," he said. "But at some point during the scrap, they ended up stabbing me a couple times."

Rodriguez was stabbed twice in the stomach with an "unknown sharp object," police said.

The NYPD released photos several hours later of the alleged attackers, who were still on the loose Friday. *Amanda Woods*

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NEW YORK
■ Midday Nos. Fri.: **880**
■ Midday Win-4 Fri.: **2894**
■ Midday Take-5 Fri.: **12, 17, 23, 29, 32**
■ Evening Nos. Fri.: **021**
■ Evening Win-4 Fri.: **4161**
■ Evening Take-5 Fri.: **10, 15, 17, 20, 38**
■ Pick-10 Fri.: **4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 21, 27, 32, 35, 47, 56, 60, 68, 73, 74, 76, 77, 79**
■ Millionaire for Life Fri.: **12, 15, 18, 28, 35**; MB: **3**
■ Mega Millions Fri.: **3, 23, 27, 46, 60**; MB: **11**

NEW JERSEY
■ Pick-3 Fri.: **397;** Fireball: **6**
■ Pick-4 Fri.: **1437;** Fireball: **6**
■ Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: **9, 15, 27, 39, 42**; Xtra: **x2**

CONNECTICUT
■ Play-3 Fri.: **013;** Wild: **1**
■ Play-4 Fri.: **0522;** Wild: **7**
■ Cash-5 Fri.: **12, 13, 23, 24, 30**

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Chilling Clancy search

Lindsay Clancy made a series of disturbing Google searches — including “How to slit throat to die” — in the days and weeks leading up to the grisly murders of her three children, bombshell testimony revealed this week.

Clancy’s defense attorney, Kevin Reddington, shockingly confronted a Massachusetts state trooper with the alarming searches as the mom’s murder trial entered its 13th day Thursday.

“Did you come across a search, ‘Where is the carotid artery?’” Reddington asked Trooper Timothy Chiappini, who analyzed Clancy’s cellphone after 5-year-old Cora, 3-year-old Dawson and Callan, 8 months old, were found fatally strangled in the family’s Duxbury home on Jan. 24, 2023.

“I don’t recall,” Chiappini responded.

Reddington then asked about the searches, “How to slit throat to die” and “How to turn airbags off on Kia Sorento” — but the trooper again said he did not remember them.

“These all came from Lindsay’s phone, right?” Reddington asked, and held up posters displaying each search for the Plymouth County courtroom to see.

Georgia Worrell and Priscilla DeGregory

Don’s new ‘bawl’room

WASHINGTON — President Trump asked the Supreme Court to allow construction of his sprawling White House ballroom to continue while his administration appeals a lower court’s order to halt the work.

Trump’s solicitor general on Friday petitioned the high court to suspend last week’s decision by a US Court of Appeals.

The filing brings the months-long legal battle to the Supreme Court for the first time since Trump tore down the East Wing last fall to start the 90,000-square-foot, $400 million ballroom.

Emily Goodin, Wires

Quit post after ‘fabulist’ allegations

PLAGUED UK PROF, 41, DEAD

Jason Arday

By NATALIE O’NEILL

Embattled former Cambridge University professor Jason Arday was found dead Friday after quitting his job at the school over plagiarism allegations — which his family slammed as a “campaign of misinformation.”

Arday, 41 — the youngest-ever black professor at the university — was found “unresponsive” in his south London home and later pronounced dead at the scene, according to the UK Telegraph.

“Sadly, a 41-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin have been informed and are being supported by officers,” a spokesman for the Metropolitan Police told the paper.

“At this time his death is being treated as unexpected but is not believed to be suspicious.”

The sociology professor, who became a poster boy for diversity, resigned Aug. 5 as the school launched an investigation into accusations that he plagiarized parts of his Ph.D. dissertation and lied about positions he held at other schools.

He cited an “unrelenting level of public scrutiny” as his reason for resigning.

“[It’s] simply the decision of someone who has reached the limits of what any person should reasonably be expected to endure,” he said at the time.

Arday had faced allegations that he lifted more than 100 passages in his dissertation from another academic, Brunel University student Paula Zwozdziak-Myers.

Nathan Cofnas, a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University in Belgium, published a Substack article last month detailing several examples in which Arday’s doctoral dissertation appeared to be plagiarized.

‘Misinformation’

An analysis later showed more than 100 passages in his thesis reportedly appeared to be similar to or lifted from the thesis of Zwozdziak-Myers.

Arday (left) then came under fire for allegedly falsely claiming to have held three positions at academic institutions — Ohio State University, University of Glasgow and Durham University — on his official biography page for Cambridge University.

“Jason was subjected to a campaign of sustained abuse for more than three years since he accepted the role of professor at Cambridge University by those who would leave no stone unturned in their quest to undermine him,” Arday’s family said, according to the Guardian.

“The campaign of misinformation was too much for Jason, who was a gentle man and who always wanted to see the best in everyone,” they added.

El-Sayed kin *groan* for the holidays

The sister of Michigan Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed also dismissed classic American holidays as her candidate brother has been called out for hating on the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving.

Eman Abdelhadi, an assistant professor of comparative human development at the University of Chicago, had several social-media posts resurface in the wake of her sibling’s primary victory earlier this month.

“Excuse me if I don’t celebrate the transfer of stolen land from one colonizer to another,” Abdelhadi posted on Twitter, now X, in July 2016, while using the hashtag #July4th.

In other posts, the college professor claimed “settler colonial propaganda” was potentially being taught at her niece’s school, only to breathe a sigh of relief after learning that the main takeaway about Thanksgiving was “turkeys.”

“If it weren’t attached to genocide,” Abdelhadi also said in a November 2024 post, “thanksgiving would be a lovely holiday.”

Reps for Abdelhadi did not respond to a request for comment. *Josh Christenson*

Don hugs vic's mom

TENDER TRUMP: President Trump on Friday embraced Migdalia Martinez, whose 12-year-old son Jacob Freytes was fatally shot last month in The Bronx.

'Boy slain by thug'

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

President Trump embraced the teary-eyed mother of 12-year-old Jacob Freytes — the Bronx boy allegedly shot dead by a career criminal last month — as he promised to get tougher on crime during a pro-police event on Long Island Friday.

The president paused his speech at the Nassau County Police Academy in Garden City to acknowledge Migdalia Martinez, whose son was fatally hit by a stray bullet outside a Bronx bodega in July.

Trump described Martinez and her ex-husband, retired NYPD detective Jesus Freytes, as "incredible people" before departing the podium and exchanging words with the weeping pair.

"Incredible, horrible story. A horrible thing. We're going after them. There are sick people," Trump promised the crowd after the emotional moment.

Jacob Freytes had cycled to the Wanda Deli Grocery on Elliott Place near the Grand Concourse to buy a ball when he was fatally struck in the chest.

Martinez told The Post that the tender moment made her feel that the country is "heading in the right direction."

"It feels good to know that he cares," the grieving mom said. "I need America to be safe again. I already lost one son. If it's not safe, I can't imagine what's going to happen to the rest of my children or all of our children."

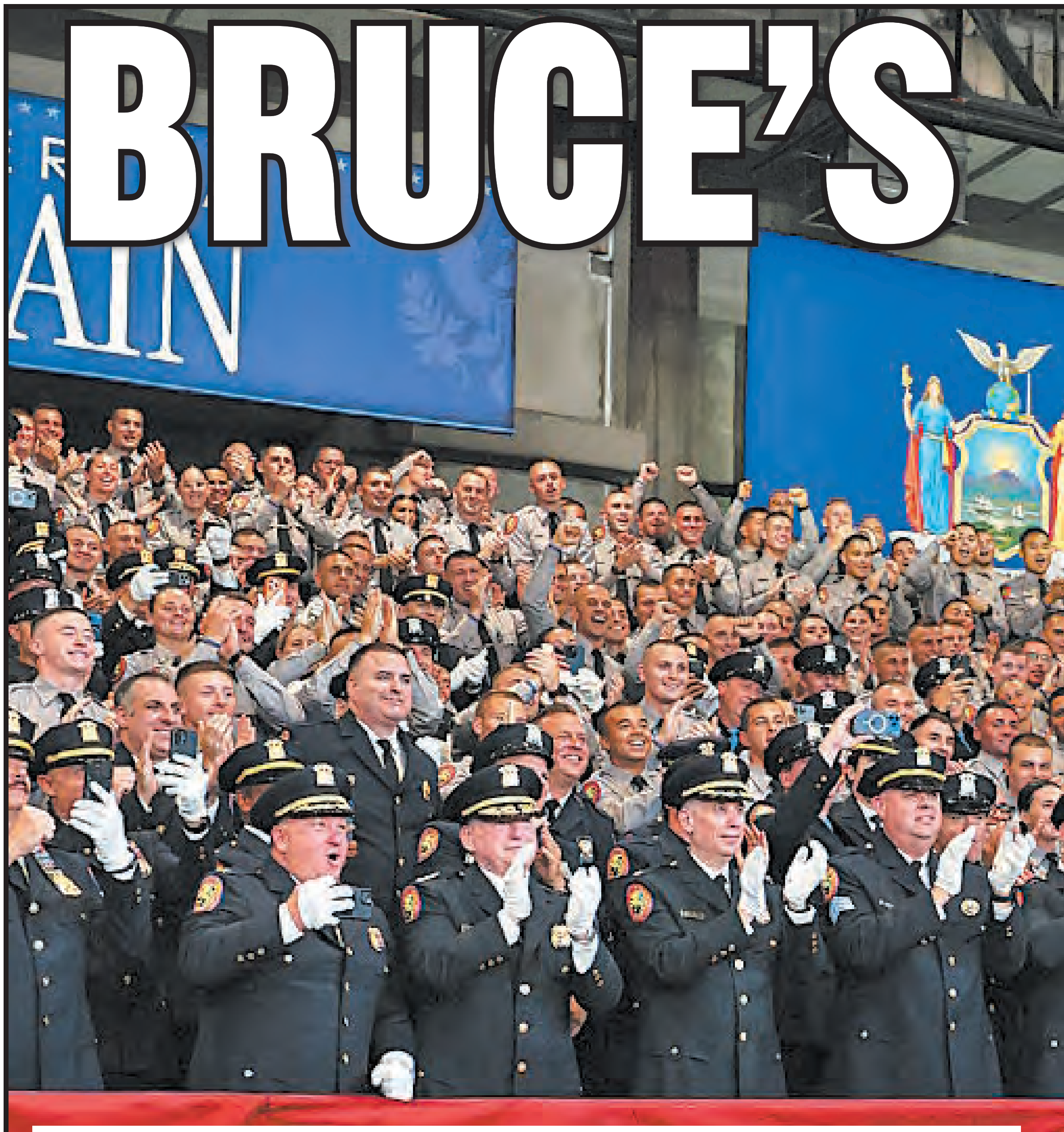
Martinez said she hopes for a future bill named after her son that would put criminals convicted of recklessly or intentionally killing children behind bars for life without the possibility of parole.

"My son will never be able to enjoy his life. Why should he?" Martinis said of career criminal William Ferrer, 45, who police said killed Freytes after opening fire during a fight in the South Bronx.

Ferrer has a lengthy rap sheet dating as far back as 1999, with half a dozen previous arrests.

The president said the incident was an extreme product of "Kathy Hochul's New York" and bail reform policies, which Martinez had previously told The Post was a system that "works more for the criminal than they're gonna work for the victim." *kdonlevy@nypost.com*

BRUCE'S



By MATT TROUTMAN
and ALEX MITCHELL

He's bigly for Bruce.

President Trump slammed Gov. Hochul's "radical left" as destroying New York — as he boisterously predicted Friday that GOP contender Bruce Blakeman will win the state's gubernatorial race.

The extravagant praise came as Trump visited Nassau County — where Blakeman serves as the executive — to tout new FBI statistics showing a historic national year-over-year drop in violent crime.

Speaking at the Nassau County Police Academy, Trump railed against what he called the "communist attack" on America, painting an apocalyptic picture of cities descending into chaos, crime and squalor.

"And then the death comes, and it becomes really a true hell hole," he said to the raucous Garden City crowd packed with cops and supporters, adding, "It's not going to happen to New York, New York state. That's why we got to get Bruce into office."

Trump then argued that the race was Blakeman's to lose, given the policies of Hochul and other state Democrats, such as New York's cashless bail laws implemented in 2020.

Hammering Hochul

"How the hell can you lose to that? If you lose, you'll be ashamed for the rest of your life," he said.

Blakeman trailed Hochul, a Democrat, by just 10 points — 49% to 39% — among likely voters, according to the latest Siena College survey conducted in early August.

The poll showed Blakeman in a better position than Republican candidate Lee Zeldin at roughly the same point in 2022. Zeldin went on to lose against Hochul by a slim six points — a major feat for a Republican in a historically deep blue state.

Trump's visit to Long Island came as Blakeman and other Republicans amp up their attacks on Democrats ahead of November's election, hoping that the party's sharp leftward shift will alienate voters, especially in suburban swing-districts.

The Empire State in particular has seen the Democratic Socialists of America emerge as a powerful force within the Democratic Party, particularly since Big Apple Mayor Mamdani's election last year.

But Trump only mentioned

TRUMP BUMP

Prez goes all-in for 'winner' Blakeman at LI cop rally

Getty Images, AP

BRUCE IS ALMIGHTY: President Trump said he believes that Bruce Blakeman (together, left) will win the New York governor's race Friday at a rally on Long Island (above).

his unlikely texting buddy Mamdani a handful of times, drawing indulgent boos as if the Boston Red Sox were taking the field at Yankee Stadium.

Instead, Trump repeatedly hammered Hochul, accusing her of being soft on crime for supporting cashless bail and a sweeping "sanctuary state" law that bans cooperation between local cops and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

"Hochul and the radical left stand with the gang members, child predators, violent felons. We stand with hardworking New Yorkers," Trump said.

"She thinks the sanctuary cities are wonderful, which are killing our country," he added.

The pair certainly haven't been shy about attacking each other, but Trump and Hochul often temper it with pragmatic praise about their working relationship on specific projects or issues, such as the overhaul of Penn Station.

Bruce touts ICE deal

Blakeman, who vehemently opposes the anti-ICE efforts, returned to his mantra that Nassau is the safest county in America — crediting it in part to the county's partnership with federal immigration enforcement.

"Nassau County has the most comprehensive agreement with ICE in the United States of America. In one year, we removed 2,000 illegal migrants with criminal records ranging from attempted murder, rape, murder, robbery . . . drug dealers," he said before Trump took the stage.

The president was joined by Blakeman, Attorney General Todd Blanche and FBI Director Kash Patel, a Garden City native, for a tour of Nassau County's "state of the art" police facility during the visit.

Basking in the law enforcement crowd, Trump boasted about Blakeman hiring more than 700 new cops.

Trump drew massive applause when he called for the death penalty for cop killers, as he did when he introduced Blakeman — whom he said was an old friend.

"He's a winner," he said about Blakeman.

New low in violent crime rate

Violent crime rates in the US have plummeted with their biggest one-year drop on record, according to a new FBI report that President Trump touted Friday as evidence that he's "making America safe again."

The 2025 Uniform Crime Report showed violent crime was down 9.3% from the previous year, murder was down 18.1%, rape decreased by 7.6%, robbery was down 18.5%, aggravated assault decreased 7.2%, and motor vehicle theft was down 22.7%.

"Every single number is the lowest number in recorded history," he said of the new report.

"We have the best crime record in recorded history," Trump, who's portrayed himself as a law-and-order president, said during a Long Island stop.

The Trump administration has embraced policies that helped fight crime rates: cracking down on criminal migrants, decreasing the number of immigrants trying to illegally cross the border and sending National Guard to big cities. *Emily Goodin*

Dem pol: No thanks, Kam

Alaska Dem Senate hopeful Mary Peltola rejected support this week from ex-VP Kamala Harris, who lost the state by double digits in her failed 2024 presidential campaign.

"Alaska is a must-win Senate seat for Democrats to retake control of the Senate," Harris wrote in a fundraising email, urging the public to "help Mary Peltola get the support she needs" by splitting a donation between Peltola's campaign and the ex-veep's Fight for the People PAC.

Harris continued, "So if there's anyone who can flip Alaska and secure the Senate majority for Democrats — it's Mary. But she cannot do it alone."

But Peltola, a former congresswoman who flipped Alaska's at-large congressional seat blue in 2022, was not interested in Harris' support.

"Mary isn't seeking endorsements from anyone from the Lower 48 — her focus is and always will be Alaska," a campaign spokeswoman told The New York Times. *Victor Nava*

ISAAC SCHORR

Fauci called shots for TV

AP

‘Edited COVID lab-leak story’

HUMAN history is shaped by epic rivalries, and Dr. Anthony Fauci’s adversarial relationship with the truth has proven one such antagonism.

Fauci’s pandemic-era fibs about the efficacy of masks and lockdowns, the National Institutes of Health’s funding of gain-of-function research, his role in shutting down schools and the origins of COVID-19 itself are well-documented.

But a liberal journalist may have just blown the top off yet another massive scandal.

Terry Moran is best known for getting canned by left-leaning ABC News over an unprofessional outburst directed at White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller.

He’s the furthest thing from a right-wing bomb-thrower.

Yet during a recent appearance on The Fifth Column podcast, Moran revealed that Fauci was responsible for his only experience of “the heavy hand of censorship” coming down on him at ABC.

According to Moran, he and his team conducted a thorough investigation into the lab-leak theory in early 2021 before putting together a balanced segment analyzing the arguments for and against it.

But the final, edited product that came back to him after his version was reviewed by top brass at the network was “incomprehensible,” said Moran.

“I was told: ‘Fauci,’ ” he recalled.

‘Organized campaign’

“I’ve never watched that story [again] and I never want to. Because it wasn’t mine, and most importantly, because it was incomprehensible.”

Moran went on to allege that “an organized campaign” to paint the lab-leak theory as racist is what “really silenced” dissenters.

“ABC News’ standards people took that absolutely to heart and it was not going to be discussed.”

All due to the wishes of one man: “Fauci.”

Speak of the devil, the longtime NIAID director owes former President Joe Biden a very nice dinner — and maybe even some ice cream afterwards.

In one of his final acts as commander-in-chief, Biden pardoned Fauci for any federal offenses he may have committed between 2014 and early 2025.

Otherwise, Moran’s revelation might send the doctor to jail for perjury.

Fauci appeared before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic in June 2024 and addressed the supposedly “false accusation that I tried to cover up the possibility that the virus originated from a lab” in his opening statement.

WHAT’S UP DOC? Former ABC News reporter Terry Moran (left) says Dr. Anthony Fauci (above) pressured ABC to change Moran’s 2021 report about the origins of COVID-19.

“In fact, the truth is exactly the opposite,” he asserted.

The opposite, huh?

Then why did Fauci allegedly intervene to force a story merely contemplating the possibility that the virus originated in a lab to undergo a makeover so extreme as to render it unrecognizable?

And why did Fauci play such a key role in the publication of an article dismissing the lab-leak theory beginning in February 2020?

An article, by the way, that Fauci himself would later cite as an unbiased authority on the topic.

No wonder the ex-chief medical adviser to Biden spent hours pleading the Fifth Amendment in front of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee late last month.

After all, he’s not immunized from prosecution for any current lies.

Media manipulation

Only the destructive ones he’s already told.

Legal consequences (or lack thereof) aside, Moran’s anecdote, if true, provides terrifying insight into the toxic relationship between Fauci and the media.

If Fauci was going to find out about the story pre-publication, the network ought to have asked him for an on-the-record comment so that the public could weigh the strength of his arguments.

Instead, ABC allegedly granted him veto power, essentially crowning him editor-in-chief for a day without any disclosure of his influence over its reporting.

What were they thinking?

The doctor was a high-ranking government official with motive aplenty to mislead at the time of the Moran rewrite.

Remember, Fauci is a believer in the so-called “noble lie” who suffered from reality-warping delusions of grandeur.

There was every reason to interrogate his perspective.

Instead, the press elevated it above all others — because he was a liberal cause célèbre whose views on this particular topic aligned with the media’s own inexplicable concern that investigating the connection between an epoch-changing pandemic and the genocidal Chinese government would fuel anti-Asian bigotry.

Unlike, say, blaming it on the Chinese people’s purported hankering for bat soup.

The media’s liberal bias not only yields slanted coverage, it makes it susceptible to manipulation by the powerful and self-serving.

Anthony Fauci wasn’t the first and won’t be the last to take advantage.

Attacker erupts in court

A Florida serial felon who kidnapped and sexually assaulted a DoorDash driver was dragged out of the courtroom when he launched into an expletive-laced meltdown following his swift conviction.

Joseph Killins erupted inside Hillsborough County Court in Tampa, Fla., on Thursday, when a jury took just 20 minutes to find him guilty of attempted murder, armed kidnapping and sexual battery stemming from the April 2023 attack.

“That b---h lying, man!” Killins yelled after the verdict was finished being read, according to video from WFLA TV. “I didn’t do no s--t like that to that motherf--ker.”

The agitated creep had jolted out of his seat, forcing several officers to restrain him.

“Sit down, Mr. Killins,” Judge Lyann Goudie ordered.

The movement of the frantic convict forced the judge to clear the jury from the courtroom before addressing the agitated predator.

“What’s going on Mr. Killins?” Goudie asked before she was interrupted by his obscene blowup.

“Out, out, he goes in the holding cell,” the no-nonsense judge ordered.

Nicholas McEntyre

‘Dodgeball assault’ rap

An Arizona teen was charged with assault when he and his two pals allegedly targeted the boy’s ex-girlfriend “relentlessly” with dodgeballs during their gym class, which left the girl with bruises.

Abel Schipper claimed he never meant to hurt his classmate when he and his friends hurled dodgeballs at the girl during warm-ups for the class at Mayer High School in December 2025.

The girl was allegedly hospitalized with serious bruising on the upper right rib cage and lower right abdomen, according to a police report obtained by AZ Family news. *Richard Pollina*

Meg chapped hips

Mom-of-four Megan Fox shows off her hot-at-40 bod in a sultry photo splash for Insta-fans, highlighted by furry leather chaps and tight latex band.

Cibelle Levi

2 more ‘Legion’ deaths

The Upper East Side Legionnaires’ disease outbreak has now claimed the lives of nine people, eclipsing the death toll from last year’s Harlem cluster, health officials announced Friday.

The grim milestone was shared by Health Commissioner Dr. Alister Martin, who said two people diagnosed weeks ago had died.

“We mourn each loss, and our hearts are with their loved ones,” Martin said.

City Council Speaker Julie Menin, an Upper East Side resident, said she was “saddened” to hear that two more people died from the “devastating outbreak.”

Menin confirmed that one of the deaths included “one previous case reclassified as connected to the cluster.”

“My thoughts and prayers are with their families,” she wrote.

Martin said the source of the Upper East Side Legionnaires disease outbreak has been eliminated and residents are no longer at increased risk of exposure.

One person still remains hospitalized, the Department of Health said. There have been no new confirmed cases or reported symptoms in over three weeks but the health department will continue to analyze samples of the disease from cooling towers and patients.

Ella Morrison and Matthew Fischetti

AOC’S FROZEN DEBT

Student loan stall

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

WASHINGTON — Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) has made at least $174,000 annually for nearly eight years as a member of Congress, but like many of her “Squad” colleagues, she has yet to put a substantial dent in her student loan debt, according to House financial disclosures.

The Bronx and Queens Democrat has owed between $15,001 and $50,000 in federal student loan debt since her election to the House in 2018. That’s the same amount she owes now, according to her August disclosure, where lawmakers report ranges for debt and income.

The “Tax the Rich!” pol reported less than $81,000 in total assets.

Recently, Ocasio-Cortez has suggested that she’d been saving up for some time instead to freeze her eggs, a process that can cost between $10,000 and $20,000 per cycle.

“I got sworn into the House of Representatives when I was 29 years old,” she said in an Instagram video. “There’s this flip side where you have to then grow up in the public eye in a time that most people usually get to grow more privately.”

Ocasio-Cortez amassed the loans while attending Boston University as an international relations and economics major between August 2007 and May 2011 — and went on to tend bar in Manhattan before her successful run for Congress.

TAX
THE
RICH

The “Squad” Democrat has consistently backed student debt cancellation. During former President Joe Biden’s term, she even pushed the 46th commander in chief to cancel as much as $50,000 in debt per student borrower.

Not alone on Hill

Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) has held up to $50,000 over the past eight years in student debt.

Not all her colleagues who entered the same freshman class of 2018 have failed to pay off their student debts.

Fellow “Squad” Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) had up to $100,000 in law school loans that have been partially paid off in the same time period — but could still amount to as much as $50,000 too, per House disclosures.

Meanwhile, moderate Rep. Jared Golden (R-Maine) similarly held up to $100,000 in outstanding student debt but paid off at least half of it by his last House filing.

Pol applies the brakes

E-bike reversal

By HALEY BROWN

City Council Speaker Julie Menin is backing away from a major pillar of her proposed e-bike crackdown — as new legislation will no longer require registration, which safety advocates say is key to holding out-of-control riders accountable.

Menin is punting the issue to Albany rather than include it as part of her 17-bill legislative package of e-bike safety laws, marking a reversal from when she co-sponsored Priscilla's Law, which would require such registration.

The decision to not register the bikes blunts the impact of the legal effort to stop danger from the powered personal vehicles, said Councilman Robert Holden, who sponsored Priscilla's law in 2024.

'Orders from PACs'

"What the Council is doing is a halfhearted measure," he said. "They're not beholden to the citizens of New York City. They get their marching orders from PACs."

Menin's move comes as PACs funded by Uber and DoorDash dropped around $170,000 in independent expenditures supporting her reelection — and critics say that money from the powerful tech companies is what is stalling reform on the bike issue, as they don't want to face more suits.

Menin flatly denied any influence and pointed out one of the measures she backs would strengthen licensing oversight across delivery platforms.

Sal Albanese, a former councilman who now works with Make Voters the Donors, said money talks.

"Legally, they're probably not talking," he said, "but it's a wink and a nod."

Follow NJ's lead

Advocates say that requiring the powered bikes to be registered and carry license plates would allow an injured pedestrian to identify a delivery rider and file an insurance claim against them or their the delivery app.

New York City's TLC already licenses both the cars and the drivers for hire, but Menin said she wants to follow New Jersey and have e-bikes register with the state DMV.

Albany has shown little appetite for Priscilla's Law. State bills drew just six sponsors across both chambers in the last session.

Sponsor Senator Joseph Addabbo Jr. said his bill has been slow to gain momentum because lawmakers fear hurting delivery workers.

Crashes involving e-bikes and e-scooters are up more than 30% from last year.

'Police' and quiet

The City Council is mulling a bill that would offer cops electronic hearing devices to protect their ears on the job in the "very loud" Big Apple.

The bill, introduced Thursday by GOP Minority Leader David Carr and Council Public Safety Chair Oswald Feliz, would create a one-year pilot program for the NYPD to offer ear protection that will reduce noise by at least 25 decibels.

Studies have shown that police officers across the country face higher levels of hearing loss than the general public, with more than a third of officers reporting some level of loss.

The NYPD and the New York City Police Benevolence Association did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Matthew Fischetti

COLUMBIA

Ivy cuts ties with passive Harlem fund

PUSHED OUT: David Geffen Hall (right) at the Columbia Business School campus was part of the university's controversial expansion into the Manhattanville neighborhood, which displaced local residents.

By ISABEL VINCENT

A nearly $100 million fund intended to revitalize West Harlem has been mired in mismanagement, racism and inertia, The Post has found — with not one major project either conceived or built with the money in nearly two decades.

In 2009, Columbia University signed a deal handing more than $96 million to a newly formed nonprofit, the West Harlem Local Development Corporation, to make amends for the displacement of local residents during an expansion.

The school's incursion into the Manhattanville neighborhood — from West 125th to West 134th streets, between Broadway and 12th Avenue — included constructing new arts and science centers, a business school and conference venue.

Controversially, it seized existing buildings by eminent domain, pitting the wealthy school against local small businesses and property owners refusing to budge.

Things got so heated that when Columbia University's president Lee Bollinger and Julio Batista — chair of the new nonprofit — went to sign the agreement, they had to navigate through a group of rowdy protestors with hand-printed signs proclaiming "West Harlem is not for sale" who had to be held back by the NYPD.

Despite the uproar, the university hailed it "an opportunity for the University and our local community to enhance our collective work . . . while helping local citizens and businesses be full participants in the new economic opportunities created by Columbia's commitment to local growth."

'Opportunity' squandered

Seventeen years later, sources say "a generational opportunity" for improvement has been squandered.

Columbia sources tell The Post the university made its final payment last year and has since abandoned the fund, which has dwindled to $56 million.

The Post found that almost none of the $20 million earmarked for affordable housing has been spent, and rather than meaningful community development, locals are fobbed off with token grants to theater groups, dance companies and the local chamber of commerce.

In past years, the fund gave out 1,000 turkeys to residents at Thanksgiving and cheap school supplies to local children, according to a former board member.

The group's "senior programs" consisted of buying $127,000 in Broadway tickets for elderly citizens and chartering a bus to take them to shows in 2024, a source told The Post.

The nonprofit, now renamed the West Harlem Development Corporation, is beset by chronic dysfunction on its board and has been rocked by recent allegations of racism and antisemitism.

The board operates "as though it were a neighborhood bodega rather than a nonprofit corporation with substantial community assets," Larry English, a Harlem lawyer and current WHDC board member who represents Democratic Congressman Adriano Espaillat on the board, told The Post.

He also charged that board members have "refused to retain a competent firm" to put a plan in place "for this once-in-a-generation opportunity to preserve and grow the original endowment established under the Community Benefits Agreement."

Sources noted that, if invested properly, the original $76 million endowment and $20 million affordable

$ FOR NOTHING

> ‘It’s run as though it were a neighborhood bodega rather than a nonprofit corporation with substantial community assets.’
>
> —Larry English, a Harlem lawyer and current board member of the West Harlem Development Corporation

HARLEM HEAT: West Harlem Development Corp. Executive Director Zead Ramadan (near right with David Dinkins in 2013) is accused in a lawsuit of racism. The WHDC board is led by ex-judge Milton Tingling (left).

Zead Ramadan/ Facebook

housing fund would have grown exponentially by now.

“The board’s failure to take these steps constitutes a breach of its fiduciary duty,” English alleged, adding his frustration that none of the money for affordable housing, “a critical concern in West Harlem,” is being used.

Concerns with pols

Instead, the WHDC is fighting a federal lawsuit brought by a former board member and employee over allegations of racism by its current Executive Director, Zead Ramadan. He is alleged to have “engaged in a pattern of unprofessional and discriminatory behavior in the workplace, including racist, antisemitic, and otherwise ethnically offensive remarks,” per court papers.

Ramadan, who is also a board member of the Council on American and Islamic Relations in New York City, is one of the only paid employees of WHDC, making $225,000 in 2024, public filings show. Since 2013 the board has been headed by powerful retired judge Milton Tingling, who is also the New York County Clerk. Last month, Tingling was appointed to the Mayor’s Committee on the Judiciary, set up to recommend judicial candidates.

Concerns about the community benefits agreement surfaced even as it was being drafted in December 2007. At that point, five West Harlem board members resigned, upset over the heavy-handedness of the politicians involved in negotiating with Columbia.

The university’s funding, which was allocated in several tranches over the years, has been regularly jeopardized by mismanagement, numerous sources have claimed.

As far back as 2010, then Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer charged the organization had failed to establish guidelines for distributing the cash and ensuring accountability.

Several board members resigned at that time, including board chair Batista, over concerns the nonprofit was becoming a “slush fund” for Manhattan politicians through their board representatives.

The board had spent hundreds of thousands on “do-nothing” consultants, and the representatives of the lawmakers on the board were steering cash to their pet projects, all while having “whittled down” the broader community initiatives, which included better housing and subsidized transportation for seniors, former board members told The Post.

‘Lagging behind’

And still the mismanagement continued. In 2014, former board chair Donald Notice, who had sat on it since 2009, resigned amid allegations of nepotism just before the board voted to award a nonprofit run by his sister administration of a $10 million housing fund, according to a report.

“The money never trickled down to the community,” said Derrick Haynes, an activist who helps juvenile offenders in Harlem. “The community continues to lag behind in progress. The residents are continuing to be squeezed out.”

Haynes had expected to receive money from the WHDC for juvenile justice issues, but never did.

The university gave the group its last $17 million tranche last year. A former board member claimed executives at the Ivy League college have been frustrated with the group’s inability to come up with a strategic plan for the cash.

Columbia University declined to comment to The Post this week.

Meanwhile, WHDC has kept a tight hold on its purse strings, donating only around $2 million to local nonprofits per year. In 2024, it gave out $2.5 million, including $10,000 to the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, where Tingling is on the executive committee of the board.

WHDC’s largest annual grant is $125,000 per year for the Harlem Arts Alliance, a group created by GHCC executives, used to put on a summer music festival, according to public documents.

Tingling and the board changed WHDC’s bylaws in an emergency session in 2020, allowing members to serve double their two-year terms, citing the COVID pandemic.

Despite the pandemic being over, he remains in charge.

Former board member and employee Vincent Morgan, the plaintiff in the federal lawsuit against the group, was an early whistleblower describing the chronic mismanagement in 2010.

When he spoke up again a few years ago, recording alleged antisemitic outbursts by Ramadan and urging the board to hammer out a strategic plan for the remainder of the cash, he was fired, he claims in the federal suit against WHDC.

Tingling, Ramadan and WHDC did not respond to The Post’s requests for comment.

Page Six®

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‘GMA’ accused of ‘supremacy’

FORMER “Good Morning America Weekend” anchor **Janai Norman** has been blasting ABC News months after her ouster — irking her former colleagues at the Disney-owned network, according to a report.

Norman, whose contract wasn’t renewed in April after 15 years working at ABC, even suggested her old employer is “complicit in upholding white supremacy” in a video that took aim at “GMA” host **Michael Strahan**’s interview with the parents of a dead Mississippi teen.

The unusually public broadsides have “raised eyebrows among many” at the network, according to the Status newsletter.

Norman ripped Strahan over his questioning of the parents of Nolan Wells, a black 18-year-old who was found dead after a boating trip with friends. Strahan asked the grieving parents why their son would have voluntarily stayed behind on the island where his body was found. “The question should have been, ‘Do you believe that?’ ” Norman said, arguing, “That was not an objective question,” and criticizing news outlets of placing too much trust in law enforcement, which “plays into racial divisions.”

She said reports are ignoring the “historical context of Mississippi — the state with the most recorded lynchings in history” — making those “news organizations become complicit in upholding white supremacy.”

Norman has repeatedly gone after ABC’s handling of the Wells story, accusing the network of “gaslighting” the public and calling one of its digital stories “blame the victim.”

“Michael is an invaluable and highly respected member of the ABC News family,” an ABC News spokesperson told The Post’s **Ariel Zilber**. “He is a trusted anchor and journalist, and we have complete confidence in his editorial judgment, integrity and professionalism.”

Status reported that Norman was “not well-liked by ABC News brass,” citing unnamed sources. Norman did not get back to us.

Ill Dolly shelved

DOLLY Parton canceled an appearance at her iconic Dollywood theme park after a doctor ordered her not to travel due to ongoing “health issues.” “I’m still in Nashville, and I’m sorry about that,” the songstress, 80, shared in a virtual appearance Friday. “Now I’ve told you before, all my fans, that I have had a few little health issues. And sometimes I get a little dizzy, and I get dehydrated,” continued Parton, who wore fairy wings. “[My] doctor clipped my wings, saying, ‘You ain’t traveling this week.’ ” Her recent health struggles started in September when she had kidney stones, and she’s canceled multiple events since — but did make it to the opening of her truck stop travel center in Tennessee in June.

3 cheese for film

BELOVED East Hampton restaurant Sam’s, which has been around since 1947 and never closes for parties, made a rare exception. We hear the spot shuttered for a night to serve up its famous pizzas to a starry crowd at a Neon and Cinema Society bash for director **James Gray** and his film “Paper Tiger.” **Gwyneth Paltrow**, husband **Brad Falchuk** and mom **Blythe Danner** (above), **Katie Holmes** and new beau **Jason Bard Yarmosky**, **Victor Garber**, **Griffin Dunne**, **Stephanie March**, **Daryl Roth** and **Beth Stern** attended.

A strawberry is lucky enough to be served to its namesake, Halle Berry, who is, somehow, celebrating her 60th birthday this week.

halleberry/Instagram

All is Unwell for podcast host’s bevvy biz

ALEX Cooper’s drink line, Unwell Beverages, is going under less than two years after hitting shelves. Bloomberg, citing sources at Target Corp., which is Unwell Beverages’ main distributor, reported that the brand will shut down this fall following the release of Halloween-themed products, when the Nestlé-owned company is “ceasing production across all [lines] of beverages.” Reps for Cooper, Nestlé and Target have not commented. News of the brand’s shutdown comes amid a wave of backlash against Cooper this year, much of it tied to her husband **Matt Kaplan**’s alleged “nasty” treatment of Unwell Network staff. She called the allegations a “smear campaign.” Her former boss **Dave Portnoy** also alleged Cooper had a “game plan” of planting a fake sexual harassment story to get out of her contract with him. When Cooper was asked about the allegations, she said, “That’s not how I remember that at all.”

‘How To’ get rich

MATTHEW McConaughey is rolling in the dough thanks to “How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days.” The actor revealed that his 2003 rom-com with **Kate Hudson** is “by far” his biggest moneymaker today. “‘How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days’ is the gift that keeps on giving,” he said on the “Happy Sad Confused” podcast. He called the beloved movie “probably my favorite rom-com I’ve done” and “a real anchor in the rom-com genre through time.” “And it still pays the best mailbox money of any film I’ve ever done,” he added of its residual payouts. “By far. By lengths.” The 56-year-old also noted, “Every March I’d get a big check because, Valentine’s Day.”

Recovery ‘hopeful’

PEREZ Hilton remains hospitalized after his suicide attempt on Aug. 4, his sister, **Barbara Lavandeira**, exclusively tells Page Six. Hilton (above) “continues to receive medical treatment for his injuries,” she told us. “His physical and mental recovery is going to take a lot of time, but we remain hopeful.” Lavandeira refrained from providing specific details on Hilton’s “private medical matters,” but said he “did sustain cuts to his face and other areas.” Page Six also confirmed he was treated for a drug overdose at the scene. When asked if Hilton, 48, remembers the harrowing incident, Lavandeira said, “I don’t want to speak for Mario . . . There’ll be time for those conversations when his doctors believe he’s ready.”

email us:
tips@PageSix.com

Page Six Hollywood

Hollywood Insights for Insiders.

4:01
◂ Gmail

Feb 11, 2026

Page Six Hollywood

By Ian Mohr

Welcome to Page Six Hollywood...

In today's newsletter, we have a mix of news that only P6H can provide!

Writer at Large **Tatiana Siegel** looks at the controversy surrounding **Casey Wasserman** after another recording artist exited his agency on Tuesday in the wake of the bombshell Epstein data dump, as well as his alleged feud with WME superagent **Ari Emanuel.**

We deployed Senior Columnist **Peter Kiefer** on a

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Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

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♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

Whatever challenges you face over the next 48 hours you will deal with them all quite easily. You are in no mood to let a few minor setbacks deflect you from the course you have chosen — a course that can take you to a very special place.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

You enjoy a good puzzle and what occurs this weekend will challenge you to get your mind in gear and solve a problem that has left other people bemused. Focus on the facts alone and ignore answers that you would most like to see.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

If you don't like what partners and colleagues get up to this weekend, then remove yourself from the scene and do something on your own. The planets warn if you follow the herd, you could end up on someone's dinner plate.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

You always expect the best of yourself, and for that reason, you expect the best of your teammates as well. You may though have to give some of them a pep talk this weekend as not everyone seems convinced they are on the winning side.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Jupiter, your ruler, joins forces with mind planet Mercury this weekend, which means you will be even more switched on than usual to what is going on in the world. If you think there is something you personally can do to help, then get on with it.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Everyone seems to have an opinion about what's going on, but the only voice that matters is the one that comes from inside you. Follow what that voice tells you, even if everyone else thinks it is wrong. They are the ones who will look silly.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

It is of the utmost importance that you think for yourself this weekend. It may be easy to agree with someone whose inflated self-belief makes them a magnet for weaker-minded people to follow, but do they really know what they are talking about?

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

If you knuckle down and get started on those changes you have been planning, you may be surprised how much you get done in the space of just one weekend. Start early, finish late and, above all, believe you have the power to change things.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

The only thing you can be certain of this weekend is that there will be changes of a radical nature. The good news is those changes will benefit you in various ways, not the least of which will be to bring one particular dream closer to fulfillment.

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

Try not to take what's going on in your neighborhood, or in the world at large, quite so seriously. You can at times see life as a battle of "us" against "them," but it does not have to be that way. Ultimately, we are all on the same side.

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

Mercury, your ruler, links with Jupiter this weekend, making it easy for you to take decisions that are not only good for you personally but will also help family and friends. Be bold and always believe that you are doing the right thing.

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

As one of the zodiac's cardinal signs, you are not afraid to take the initiative and make things happen, and that trait will serve you well this weekend as others need a leader to take control. Think before you act, then act with unrestrained energy.

BIRTHDAY SATURDAY

A Mercury-Jupiter link on your birthday means the power of your mind has rarely been stronger, and if you focus your thoughts in a single direction, you cannot help but accomplish something out of the ordinary. Think it, do it and enjoy the results.

Post Weather Report

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Saturday

Today: Mostly sunny with low humidity. High 79 to 85.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 67 to 73.

Sunday

Tomorrow: More humid; a t-storm in the afternoon. High 77 to 83.

Tomorrow night: A shower and t-storm; humid. Low 68 to 74.

Monday

A morning shower. High 82 to 88.

Evening
Partly cloudy. Low 65 to 71.

Tuesday

Partly sunny. High 81 to 87.

Evening
Mainly clear. Low 66 to 72.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

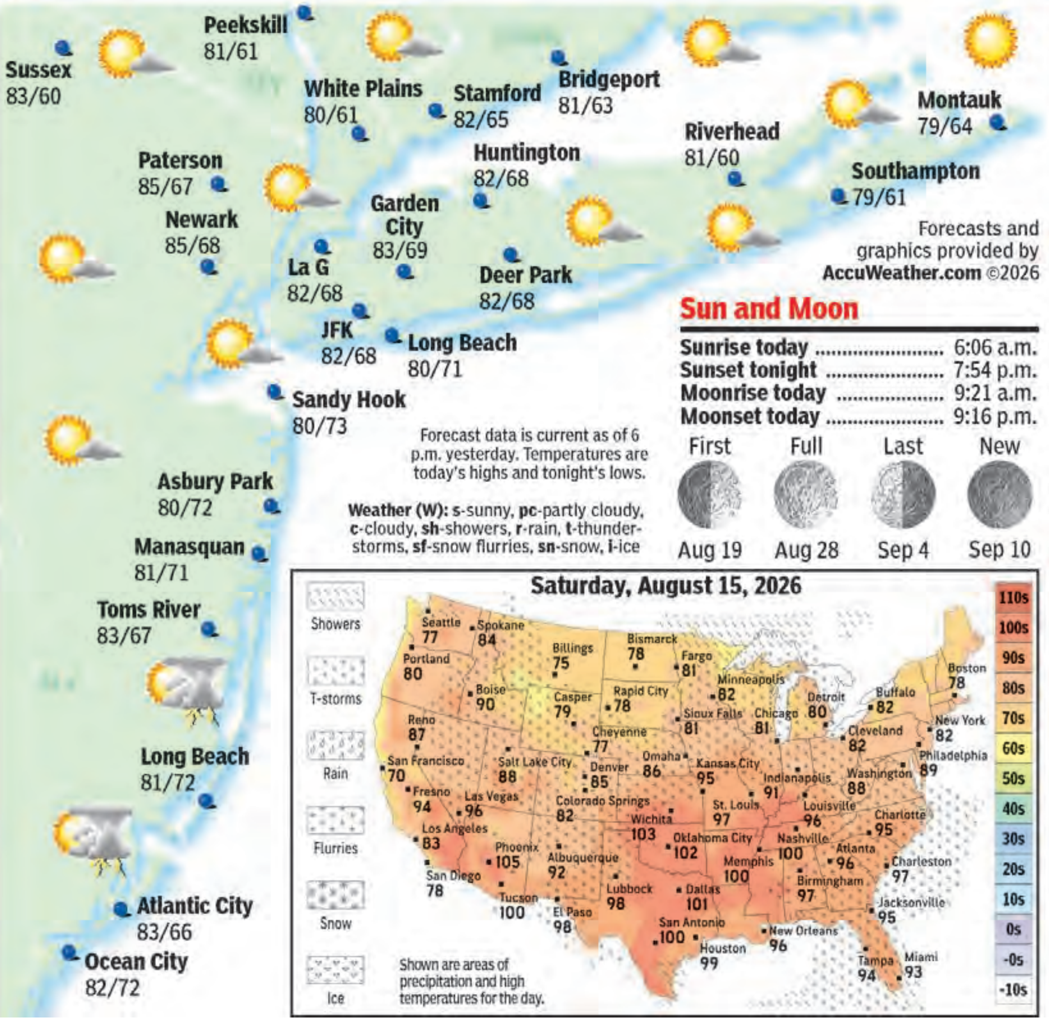
Temperature
High: 84, Low: 71, Mean: 78

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +1 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 3.33",
Year: 26.04", Normal year to date: 30.46"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 13
Total for the month (normal) 193 (169)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 953 (870)
Last year to date 943
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 83
UV index (for Sat.) .... 8 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 47%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Weeds, Grasses
AQI rating: (for Sat.) .... Good


Sussex
83/60
Peekskill
81/61
White Plains
80/61
Stamford
82/65
Bridgeport
81/63
Riverhead
81/60
Montauk
79/64
Paterson
85/67
Newark
85/68
Huntington
82/68
Southampton
79/61
Garden City
83/69
La G
82/68
Deer Park
82/68
JFK
82/68
Long Beach
80/71
Sandy Hook
80/73
Asbury Park
80/72
Manasquan
81/71
Toms River
83/67
Long Beach
81/72
Atlantic City
83/66
Ocean City
82/72
Saturday, August 15, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 77
Spokane 84
Portland 80
Billings 75
Bismarck 78
Fargo 81
Boise 90
Casper 79
Rapid City 78
Minneapolis 82
Sioux Falls 81
Reno 87
Cheyenne 77
Chicago 81
Detroit 80
Buffalo 82
Boston 78
New York 82
Cleveland 82
San Francisco 70
Salt Lake City 88
Denver 85
Omaha 86
Kansas City 95
Indianapolis 91
Washington 88
Philadelphia 89
Fresno 94
Las Vegas 96
Colorado Springs 82
St. Louis 97
Louisville 96
Charlotte 95
Los Angeles 83
Wichita 103
Oklahoma City 102
Nashville 100
Atlanta 96
Phoenix 105
Albuquerque 92
Memphis 100
Charleston 97
San Diego 78
Lubbock 98
Dallas 101
Birmingham 97
Tucson 100
El Paso 98
San Antonio 100
Houston 99
New Orleans 96
Jacksonville 95
Tampa 94
Miami 93
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s
Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 6:06 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 7:54 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 9:21 a.m.
Moonset today .... 9:16 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Aug 19	Aug 28	Sep 4	Sep 10

New York Tides

High Tide for	TODAY 1st	TODAY 2nd	TOMORROW 1st	TOMORROW 2nd
Coney Island	10:29a	10:41p	11:17a	11:29p
Fire Island	10:26a	10:46p	11:16a	11:33p
Hempstead	1:47a	2:10p	2:30a	2:51p
Huntington	1:39a	2:03p	2:25a	2:46p
Jones Inlet	10:13a	10:25p	11:01a	11:13p
Montauk Point	11:31a	11:52p	12:22p	---
Port Washington	1:55a	2:18p	2:37a	2:56p
Sandy Hook	10:33a	10:45p	11:21a	11:33p

Regional cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	79/56/pc	77/66/t
Danbury	80/57/s	78/68/c
Glens Falls	77/49/s	77/65/c
Gr Barrington	77/52/s	78/65/t
Kingston	80/56/s	77/66/t
Liberty	78/55/s	70/65/t
Monticello	79/56/s	73/62/t
Newburgh	81/58/s	77/68/t
Poughkeepsie	80/56/pc	79/67/t
Saratoga Springs	77/50/s	78/66/pc
Stroudsburg	85/62/s	75/67/r
Torrington	79/55/s	78/64/c
Syracuse	80/57/s	79/68/t

World cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	86/73/s	88/68/s
Baghdad	117/92/s	118/94/s
Beijing	86/72/r	87/69/t
Berlin	97/64/s	76/60/pc
Cairo	99/78/pc	98/77/pc
Dublin	68/53/pc	69/59/c
Geneva	94/66/t	91/64/c
Hong Kong	90/83/r	93/83/t
Jerusalem	87/70/pc	87/70/s
Kabul	92/67/pc	93/68/pc
London	83/63/s	80/62/pc
Madrid	89/67/t	94/71/pc
Mexico City	80/57/r	79/57/r
Montreal	75/58/s	73/63/c
Moscow	68/54/pc	76/60/pc
Paris	93/69/t	86/65/pc
Rio de Janeiro	74/68/t	78/67/pc
Rome	92/71/s	91/72/s
Sydney	64/53/r	62/52/r
Tokyo	88/72/c	86/74/r

5 dead in Mich. gun hell

Five people were killed in a Michigan shooting spree Friday, sparking a massive manhunt that ended when the suspected gunman was found dead.

The bloodshed was discovered at a home in Missaukee County, where police found three dead people shortly before noon, Up North Live reported, citing state police.

Two more victims were later found — one in the woods near Whitlock Lake and another in a separate home, according to the report.

Another person was in critical condition.

The carnage prompted a frantic search for the 39-year-old suspect, Chad Hickman, who police said was considered armed and dangerous.

Hickman was eventually found dead, though it wasn't immediately clear how he died.

"Not only is this difficult for our investigators and our troopers, but it's very hard for this community. You know, this type of loss is tragic," a Michigan State Police spokesperson told Up North Live in a statement.

"And we're going to conduct a thorough investigation."

Kenneth Garver

Hormuz as a US territory?

President Trump said Friday that he plans to declare the Strait of Hormuz "a territory of the United States" after the Iran war.

"After we finish defeating Iran, which is being very badly defeated — pretty soon I'll be declaring the Hormuz Strait a territory of the United States," Trump said during a Long Island rally for Republican candidates in midterm elections.

Trump acknowledged the economic effects of the nearly six-month conflict, but argued that ensuring Iran could not build a nuclear weapon was worth paying "a tiny little bit more for your gasoline."

Steven Nelson

A 'yote-load of fun

Resurrected 'Wile E.' flick a real blast

THAT'S A BALL FOLKS! "Coyote vs. Acme," a live action/animation hybrid starring Lana Condor, Wile E. Coyote and Will Forte that had been shelved by Warner Bros., is crazy, funny and surprisingly emotional.

Johnny Oleksinski

MOVIE REVIEW

COYOTE VS. ACME

Demented and brilliant.

Running time: 103 minutes. Rated PG (cartoon violence and some language). In theaters Aug. 28.

★★★½

TALK about loony.

It's borderline insane that the ludicrously funny "Coyote vs. Acme," a cracking comedy that's easily among the top "Looney Tunes" movies ever, was almost never seen by anybody.

Three years ago, the $70 million live-action/animation hybrid along the lines of "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" was part of a trio of completed projects that were unceremoniously shelved and taken as a tax write-off by new Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav.

The other victims of Zaslav's merciless shears were "Batgirl" and "Scoob! Holiday Haunt." They're still gathering dust somewhere.

And, look, that was probably the financially responsible thing to do. It's hard to imagine a Bugs Bunny movie that's not co-starring Michael Jordan or LeBron James grossing a break-even $140 million at the box office.

Welcome departure

But who cares, Doc? We're talking about Daffy Duck, Tweety and Elmer Fudd here — not the sobering reality of balance sheets.

"Coyote vs. Acme" is the dream scenario of what I wish every studio would do with their stalwarts — play around, don't focus-group it into generically inoffensive oblivion and retain the essential soul of our favorite characters.

The premise here is demented — and brilliant.

Wile E. Coyote has spent an eternity attempting to, well, violently kill the Roadrunner, only he's been thwarted by a ton of malfunctioning Acme products.

One sad night after another failure caused by backfiring rocket skates, the too-determined 2D assailant sees an ad on TV for a personal injury lawyer.

"Have you ever set a big stack of TNT on the road hoping to blow up your nemesis, but when you press the detonator the detonator itself explodes?" dryly asks Will Forte's Kevin Avery.

"It's not your fault. There's probably somebody to blame."

Finally, somebody understands his plight.

This is a world — or, rather, an Albuquerque — where cartoons live harmoniously alongside humans, but thankfully no one yaks on about it or overexplains it. That's just the way things are. In poor schlub Kevin's case, he makes a living settling for the low hundreds of dollars on malfunctioning cartoon tech cases.

Emotional ending

Together, Wile E., Kevin and his niece Paige (Lana Condor) uncover a sinister conspiracy involving the all-powerful Acme Corporation and why so many of its inventions go haywire.

There's an element of "Erin Brockovich" to that setup and even an undercurrent of "All the President's Men."

The key to beating Acme in court is getting the Road Runner to testify. Pinning him down is "beep beep" the biggest challenge of the movie.

There's enough drama in that to keep the film from feeling slight, and the plot unfurls in surprising ways. Compare that to "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" in which the plot spontaneously combusts within the first 30 seconds. The ending here actually catches you off guard with how emotional it is.

What's so great in "Coyote vs. Acme," though, are the constant, outrageously funny jokes.

When Wile E. first meets Kevin at his law firm, the coyote is reading a book called "How To Wait Around Dramatically."

There are a zillion quick gags like that.

My favorite, though, is when Acme's lawyer, played by John Cena, is berating Tweety Bird, whom he hired to be an informant against Wile E.

"I tawt I taw . . .," starts the canary.

"You tawt you taw?!" yells Cena (inset). "I'm not paying you for what you tink you taw!"

Ketchup Entertainment via AP; Warner Bros.

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

US plans toughest-ever econ sanctions

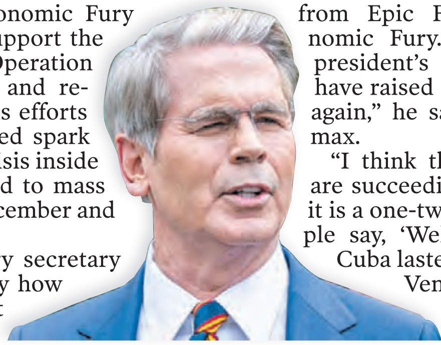
Mother of all fiscal attacks

By STEVEN NELSON

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is teasing unprecedented new economic actions against Iran as negotiations to end the nearly six-month war sputter.

"Watch this space for more announcements coming next week because we are going to apply measures like have never been seen in the history of economic isolation of a country," Bessent said in a Thursday night interview with Newsmax's Rob Schmitt.

Bessent has led the so-called Operation Economic Fury this year to support the Pentagon's Operation Epic Fury — and recalling how his efforts last year helped spark an inflation crisis inside Iran, which led to mass protests in December and January.



The Treasury secretary did not specify how the US might further attempt to cut off Tehran after taking increasingly aggressive actions to sanction money-changers, cryptocurrency and other sources of revenue — coinciding with President Trump's naval blockade halting most oil output.

Bessent's department is legally restricted from previewing specific sanctions actions — making it unclear what his new tactics might entail.

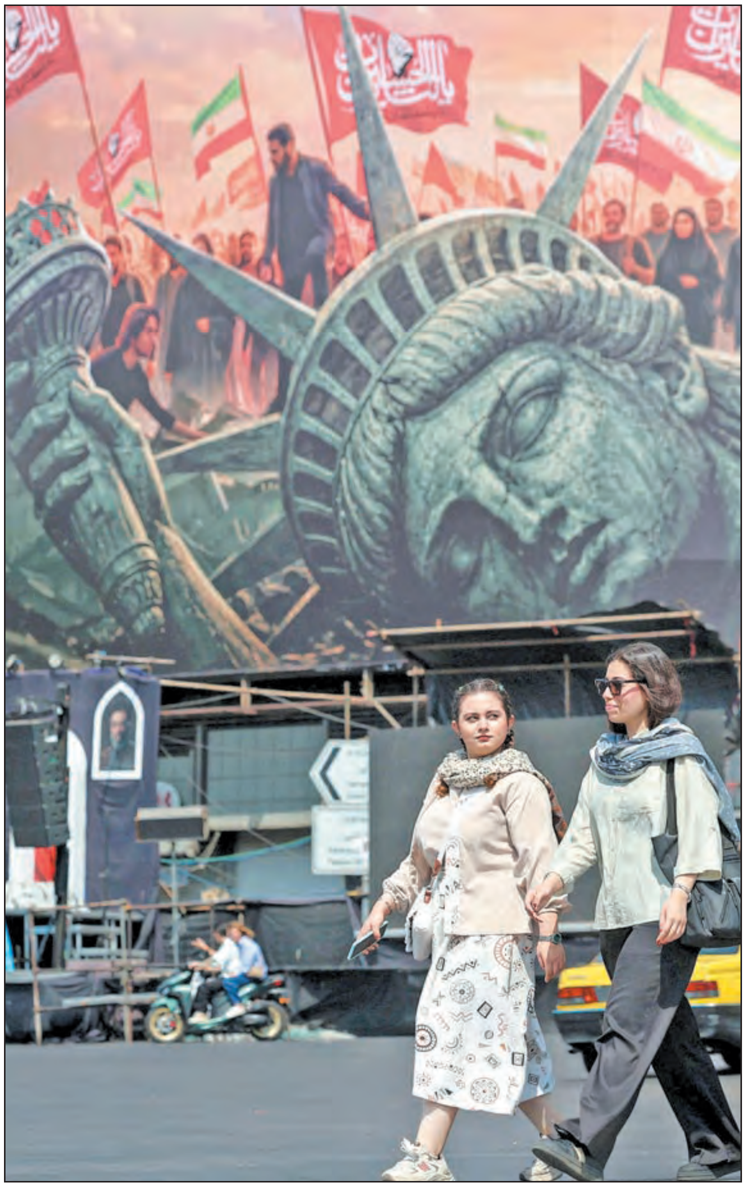
'Economic Fury'

"The kinetic war ended after several weeks, and we went from Epic Fury to Economic Fury. And at the president's orders, we have raised the level even again," he said on Newsmax.

"I think the reason we are succeeding is because it is a one-two punch. People say, 'Well, you know, Cuba lasted a long time. Venezuela lasted a long time.' Venezuela immediately crumbled when we put the blockade on.

"So it will be a combination of economic isolation like the world has never seen before, and the continued blockade in the Strait of Hormuz that will keep anything from going in or out of the Iranian ports," Bessent said.

Democrats who think Iran has never been stronger are "uninformed, deranged, and have no idea what they're talking about," he added.



VILE IMAGE: A mural of the Lady Liberty under attack hangs in Tehran as Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent (left) plans more economic pain.

ABEDIN TAHERKENAREH/EPA/Shutterstock; ZUMAPRESS.com

Hegseth goes ballistic on SATs

WASHINGTON — Secretary of War Pete Hegseth is fuming over the Army's decision to withdraw new academic standards for college students in the ROTC program — including requiring a score of at least 1000 on the SAT — to ensure that "stupid people" are not becoming military officers.

The new standards were announced on Aug. 5 in an internal memo issued by then-assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs Jules Hurst, whom the Senate confirmed as Pentagon comptroller two days later.

"The Army must cultivate intelligent and adaptive officers to build a lethal and ready Army prepared to deter, fight and win our nation's wars. The strength of our Officer Corps is the strength of our Army," Hurst wrote.

The requirement, which would have taken effect in January, was rescinded on Aug. 12 in a memo signed by under secretary of the Army Mike Obadal, who cited a need for "further staffing and analysis."

Pentagon sources told The Post the pivot demonstrated dysfunction within the Army, whose Secretary Dan Driscoll has clashed with Hegseth over the past year, including over personnel decisions — with the men hardly on speaking terms despite the ongoing Iran war.

The memos did not reach Driscoll's desk before being issued, one source told The Post. A different source confirmed that the Army secretary was not included in an internal email chain unveiling the initial memo.

Hegseth's displeasure with the situation was described to The Post by three Pentagon sources.

The ultimate fate of the test-score proposal is unclear, and it's possible it will be revived. *Steven Nelson*

Don: Working things out for sailors

WASHINGTON — President Trump denied family members of sailors and Marines aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln were concerned about their loved ones Friday, adding that the aircraft carrier would soon be relieved following a nine-month deployment.

"That ship is moving right now, or very shortly, and it's being replaced with another very similar ship," Trump told reporters at Joint Base Andrews before departing for an event on Long Island.

Multiple reports have emerged in recent days that poor living conditions and a lack of downtime have taken a severe mental toll on the roughly 5,000 service members on board the carrier, which has been stationed in the Arabian Sea since January, before the start of combat operations against Iran.

According to the Navy Times and Wall Street Journal, at least three sailors have either tried to jump overboard or managed to do so, forcing their colleagues to rescue them or physically restrain them from going over the side.

More than 200 family members met with acting Navy Secretary Hung Cao in San Diego last week to raise their issues — but Trump told reporters "no, they're not" when a reporter noted that the relatives "are concerned about conditions" on the ship.

The president also brushed off a question about whether the ship had been away from shore too long. *Emily Goodin*

A HISTORIC LISTING

By MARY K. JACOB

A slice of really cool New York history is up for grabs.

Glen Sanders Mansion, the riverfront estate in Scotia, NY, believed to be the third-oldest surviving dwelling in New York State, has hit the market for $8 million, The Post has learned.

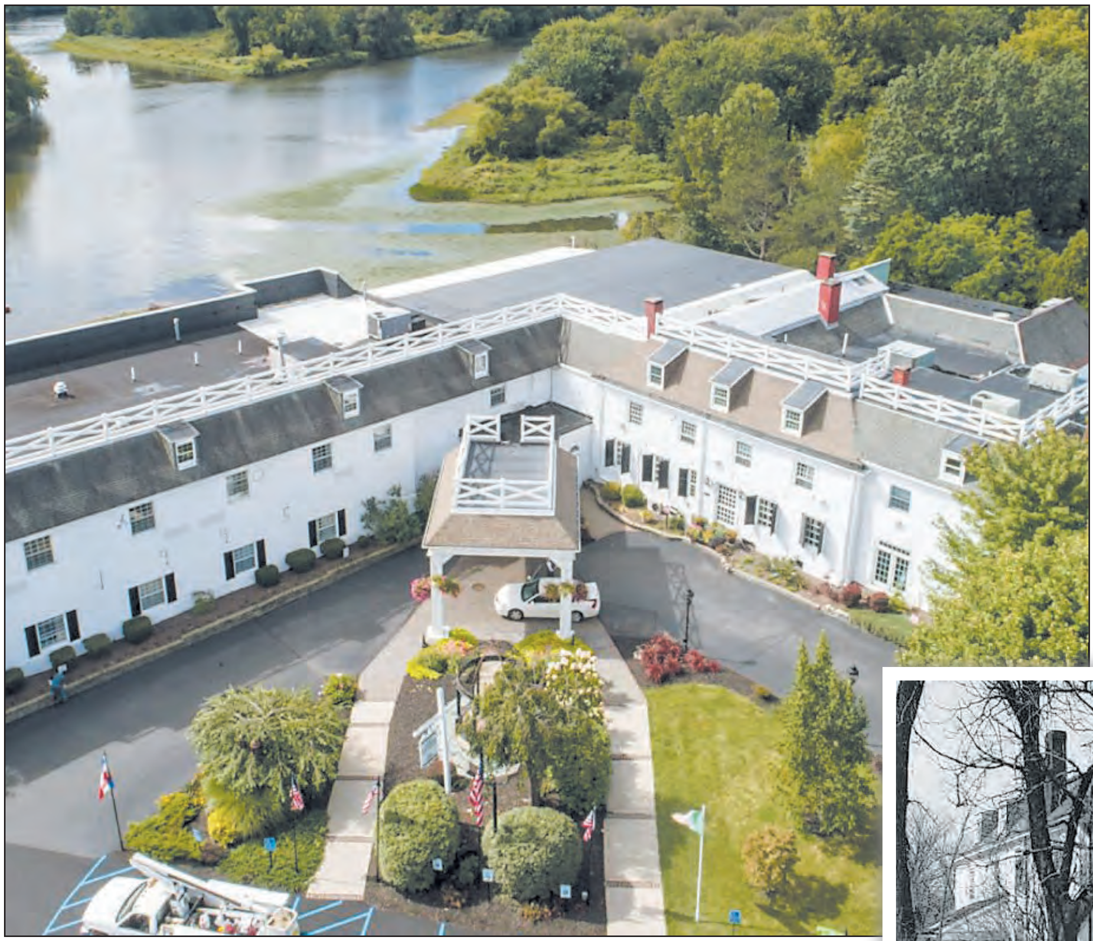
The 75,000-square-foot property traces to 1658, when Scottish merchant Alexander Lindsay Glen built a stone dwelling on the Mohawk River and named the settlement Scotia, after his homeland.

That one-room structure still stands, folded into the mansion around it, and the family held the estate 266 years until it was sold in 1962.

"That room is still part of the house, which would make it the third oldest," listing agent Angelo Michael Mazzone Jr., son of the mansion's current owner, confirmed to The Post.

Lindsay Glen's original stone dwelling gave the neighboring settlement its name, Scotia. According to long-held family tradition, the property survived the 1690 Schenectady Massacre because the Glens had once shown kindness to French prisoners, and French officers reportedly crossed the river the next morning to breakfast at the family's home.

The mansion standing today was built in 1713 by Captain Johannes "John" Glen, reportedly using stone, timber and doors salvaged from that original 1658 house.



'BUY' GEORGE, HE WAS THERE: Glen Sanders Mansion, which includes the third-oldest surviving dwelling in New York State, once was visited by George Washington and is on the market for $8 million,

Dave Bigler; Mazzone Hospitality; Getty Images

3rd-oldest NYS home

Washington visited

Restaurateur Angelo Mazzone Sr. bought the estate in 1988, opening it a year later as the flagship of what became Mazzone Hospitality.

"We used to cater on their lawn. So when the house went up for sale, I said, well, we can make this a great restaurant and banquet hall," Mazzone Sr. said.

Now 75, he said the decision to sell comes down to age.

"I've worked 40, 50 years struggling, working really hard to keep everything up and running," he said.

The mansion's calling card is its list of storied visitors.

George Washington stopped there while surveying the region's northern defenses in 1775, though historians have long noted he slept across the river at the John Glen House in Schenectady's Stockade District.

"It's been verified that he was there for a tea party. Possibly stayed, but there's no written documentation that he slept there," Mazzone Jr. said.

Unexplained activity

A young Louis Philippe, the future King of the French, is said to have stayed at the mansion during his American exile in the late 1790s, decades before he took the French throne in 1830, in a room still known as the Louis Philippe Bedroom.

Family tradition holds that the mansion's basement once sheltered freedom seekers as part of the Underground Railroad, with a passage said to connect the main house to a building across the street that later became the Scotia library.

A visible mark on the original staircase banister is attributed to an Indigenous visitor, according to Mazzone Jr.

Staff and family say the mansion has its share of unexplained activity, including a recurring sighting of a woman in a red dress some associate with Deborah Glen — the granddaughter of Alexander.

The listing includes roughly three acres, with the historic core measuring about 2,800 square feet inside the complex, which includes a 22-room inn. The mansion is not on the historical register, so there's technically nothing stopping a buyer from tearing it down, though Mazzone Sr. doubts the village would allow it, calling the house "really like the logo of the village."

$12M 'Conn'dos to escape pied-à-terre

For the first time in Greenwich, Conn., history, condos are selling for as much as $12 million — blowing past the town's previous record sale price of $6.75 million by nearly 50 percent.

The prices are coming out of Chilston Court, a new luxury development in downtown Greenwich from Caspi Development, the team behind Tribeca's celebrity-favorite hotel Fouquet's New York.

"It turns out that it's exactly what people want because it's never existed," Founder Josh Caspi told The Post. New Yorkers are increasingly eyeing Greenwich as an escape hatch from Mayor Mamdani's new surcharge on high-value secondary homes.

The pied-à-terre tax levies an annual charge on one to three family homes, condos and co-ops valued above $5 million when the owner keeps a separate primary residence outside New York City.

Caspi said the policy is now a direct driver of sales at Chilston Court.

"I'd say about a quarter of the buyers have places in New York City and several of them have made the move already where they're selling their New York City place and buying here as their secondary home instead of being in the city for that reason exactly," he said.

For many of those buyers, Greenwich isn't a downgrade so much as a strategic repositioning.

Caspi said some owners are shifting what used to be their full-time home into secondary status once they establish residency elsewhere for tax purposes. *Mary K. Jacob*

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Demand for fetal lab probe

WASHINGTON — An anti-abortion group is calling for a Senate investigation into the National Institutes of Health's funding of research that used fetal organs and tissue.

In January of this year, the NIH announced it was stopping money meant for research that used fetal tissue from elective abortions, but the 40 Days for Life organization wants an inquiry into government-funded studies undertaken before the new rule took effect.

"We have a unique perspective on the damage that abortion causes, women, society and obviously, the unborn. We also see daily the abuses of the abortion industry, including the exploitation of aborted baby body parts and tissues," the group's president, Shawn Carney, wrote in a Thursday letter.

Carney urged Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Chairman Bill Cassidy (R-La.) to conduct the probe.

Reps for Cassidy, Grassley, and the NIH did not immediately return requests for comment on the 40 Days for Life letter.

Ryan King

Mont. rock death horror

A Missouri great-grandfather was killed in front of his wife of 50 years by a 45-pound rock that crashed through the Jeep they were riding in while on vacation.

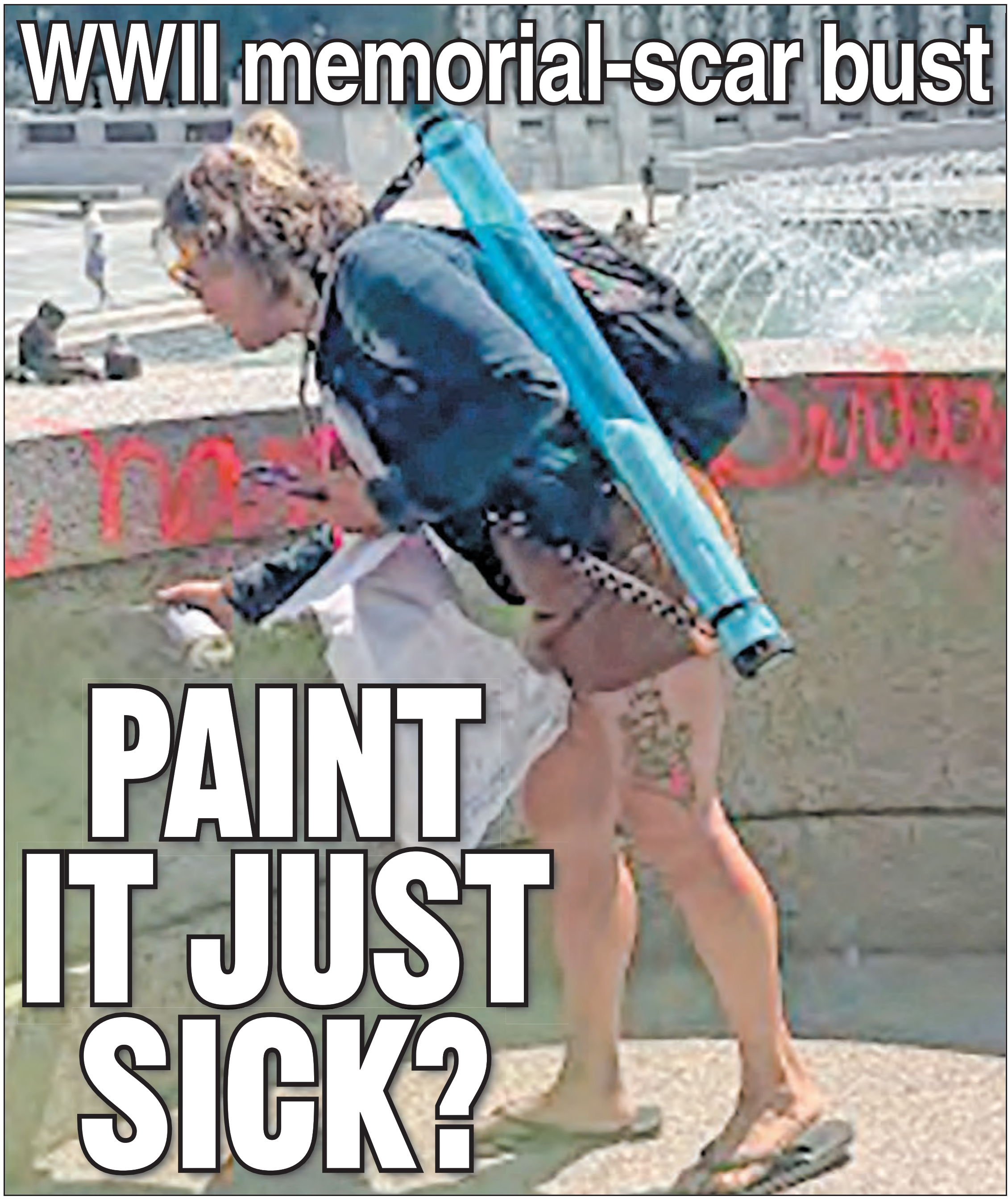
Rex Schowengerdt, 73, was struck by the rock that fell from Glacier National Park in Montana on July 11, suffering a "catastrophic" brain injury before he died five days later, his family said on GoFundMe.

Schowengerdt's sister and brother-in-law had met up with the couple at Glacier National Park, and they drove down Logan Pass — the highest point on the Going-to-the-Sun road, 6,646 feet above sea level.

Chris Bradford

WWII memorial-scar bust

HOW COULD SHE? Melissa L. Farris faces two federal felony charges after a deranged vandal allegedly posted a picture (right) of herself marring the World War II Memorial in DC Thursday.



PAINT IT JUST SICK?

X / @USAttyPirro

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

WASHINGTON — US Attorney for DC Jeanine Pirro announced charges Friday against a woman who allegedly vandalized the capital's World War II Memorial by pouring bubble soap into its fountain and spray-painting a cryptic message on its stone edifice.

Pirro said in an X post that prosecutors in her office were filing two felony charges against Melissa L. Farris, 41, of Elizabethtown, Ky., accusing her of depredation against property of the US and destruction of veterans' memorials.

Each count carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison upon conviction.

A criminal complaint against Farris noted she had also been arrested Monday for unlawfully camping just blocks from the memorial.

"Vandalizing our World War II Memorial is a despicable attack on a sacred monument honoring the Americans who fought and died for our freedom. Those Americans include my father and grandfather," Pirro wrote.

The memorial fountain bore the message, "Clean Hands Dirty $" in red graffiti Thursday afternoon.

Farris posted several videos shot near the memorial Thursday to Facebook under the pseudonym Melissa Lovewell — including one where she copped to "damaging" the fountain, the criminal complaint alleged.

"I am cognitively aware and executively (sic) of the choices I am making and I am doing so to push my whistleblower case into the courtroom," she said in one of the videos.

"It was me," she says in another video that bears the slogan "TEA PARTY" while standing next to the section where red and yellow graffiti had been painted. "I'm here I done did it. Thought I was joking? . . . I did try and [indecipherable] my spray paint."

"I was just allowed to deface Federal f—ing property, and nobody batted an eye, and that is very strange," she said in a third clip.

Farris caused more than $1,000 in damages to the historic site, per the complaint.

Farris was in federal custody as of Friday morning, Pirro said. An initial court appearance was not immediately scheduled.

President Trump blasted the damage earlier Friday on Truth Social: "THERE CAN BE NO GREATER INSULT TO THOSE AMERICAN HEROES WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR II. First the Reflecting Pool, now this. We are on their trail! Where do these animals come from???"

Shortly after photos emerged of the defaced fountain, an Interior Department spokesperson vowed US Park Police would "find the person responsible for this disgusting act."

DC residents and tourists alike were shocked to see the memorial on the eastern end of the Lincoln Memorial's Reflecting Pool cordoned off with crime-scene tape.

Lefty House hopeful a pal of hateful Piker

WASHINGTON — Self-described democratic socialist William Lawrence has raved about radical influencer Hasan Piker and sought to book an appearance on his livestream.

Lawrence, who won his House primary last week in Michigan and will take on incumbent Rep. Tom Barrett (R-Mich.) in November, first crossed paths with Piker on the sidelines of an April event for US Senate hopeful Dr. Abdul El-Sayed.

Michigan's 7th District, anchored by the capital city of Lansing, is seen as a key test for the far left Lawrence, who defeated former US Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink and ex-counterterrorism official Matt Maasdam in the primary.

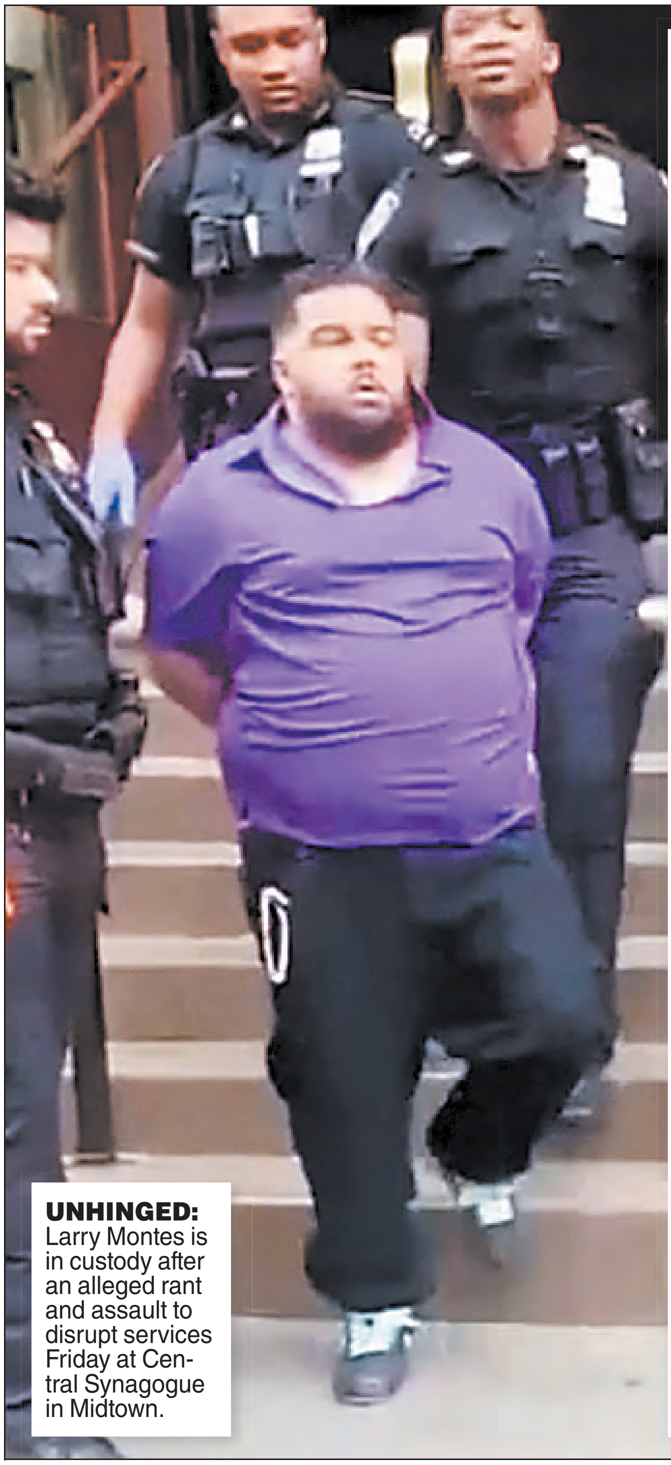
Republicans have been pummeling El-Sayed over ties to Piker, who said in 2019 that "America deserved 9/11."

The streamer later, very begrudgingly, suggested that the comment was "inappropriate" because it gave Republicans fodder to use against him.

Lawrence has not yet gone on Piker's show, has no plans to do so, and his team isn't pursuing it, according to his campaign.

Ryan King

SHABBAT 'ASSAULT'



UNHINGED: Larry Montes is in custody after an alleged rant and assault to disrupt services Friday at Central Synagogue in Midtown.

Synagogue menace

By JOE MARINO
and ELLA MORRISON

Fox5

A hateful lunatic barged into a Manhattan synagogue on Friday evening, assaulting a congregant and head-butting a security guard in a deranged antisemitic attack, police said.

Larry Montes, 46, allegedly launched the unhinged attack at Central Synagogue on Lexington Avenue and East 55th Street during Shabbat services, according to police and sources.

He walked to the front of the synagogue around 6 p.m. and began acting disorderly.

Security stepped in and began to escort the man outside — but not before he allegedly slugged a 63-year-old congregant in the face, the sources said. Montes also allegedly head-butted and spat at a security guard and broke two religious candles valued at $20,000.

An NYPD sergeant working a paid detail at the house of worship took Montes into custody.

Montes was charged with two counts of assault as a hate crime and one count of criminal mischief as a hate crime.

"I have spoken with the rabbi of the synagogue, and I'm relieved that no one was seriously injured," NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch said in a statement.

"There are no known additional threats at this time, and additional NYPD resources have been deployed to the synagogue," added Tisch, who attended the same synagogue as a kid.

Tisch said "those who were hurt were evaluated at the scene and are doing well."

"I understand the sanctity of this space and its meaning for congregants. Central Synagogue is where I grew up," the commissioner wrote.

"In joy and in sorrow, it has always been a place of comfort and peace. What happened there tonight is deeply painful. A place of worship should never be a crime scene."

Gov. Hochul called the assault "appalling" and is "grateful the suspect is in custody and that no one was seriously injured." "Jewish New Yorkers have every right to worship openly, proudly, and without fear," Hochul wrote on X.

'Despicable act'

Similarly, Mayor Mamdani said he was "horrified by the assault at Central Synagogue."

"I can only imagine the pain and fear an attack like this, during Shabbat services, causes for the congregation and for Jewish New Yorkers across our city," Hizzoner said.

"Every New Yorker must be able to observe their religion without fear of violence. This despicable act has no place in our city, and our administration will do everything in our power to keep Jewish New Yorkers safe."

State Attorney General Letitia James said her "heart is with the Central Synagogue community this evening."

Not exactly a 'mob' of buyers for house

The ornate Staten Island mob mansion (left) that just can't find a buyer is back on the market, again.

This time it has a price tag of $13.995 million, a steep markdown from its $18 million ask that flopped in 2024.

Built in 1980 by Gambino crime boss Paul "Big Paul" Castellano, the Todt Hill "White House" — called such as he had the residence designed to resemble the White House with a pillared portico and circular drive — at 177 Benedict Road spans 33,000 square feet with eight en-suite bedrooms and 17 bathrooms.

Castellano's former property aimed to fetch $16.8 million in October 2023, and then came back online with an $18 million price in late 2024.

The 25-room mansion, which sits on nearly 1.6 acres with sweeping Verrazzano Bridge views, boasts indoor and outdoor Olympic-sized pools.

The Staten Island Advance was the first to report on news of the listing.

The owner, Selim "Sal" Rusi, bought Castellano's former home for $3.1 million in 2000.

An immigrant from Albania, Rusi built his success as a self-made entrepreneur.

Lauren Elkies Schram

'Riis' & shine in R'way

They're waving hello to a new era.

The Rockaway Ocean Club will officially open its doors Saturday — marking the first time the public can enjoy the Jacob Riis Bathhouse in 54 years.

The Post was offered a sneak preview of the trendy, new beach house, which is located in the historic, federally owned facility under a contract with a private company that did an $88 million renovation.

"It's not luxury. It's just very approachable, it's accessible, and it's fun. We just want it to be fun and not fussy," said Ursula Damani, a founding partner of ROC Hospitality, which will operate the club. It will cost members up to $1,700 a year to use all of the new facility — including the restaurant, butterfly garden and swanky new pool, which will open next weekend.

But the company emphasized that more than half of the facility is free to the public, including various bars and a courtyard with space for lounging and games.

"Everybody is welcome. It doesn't matter who you are, or where you come from, or what you have," said Damani . . . New York City is a beach town."

Katherine Donlevy

Teacher in 'perv' bust

A pervy Brooklyn teacher was arrested Wednesday for allegedly forcing a 12-year-old girl into a tight hug, before creepily telling her he wanted a Latin wife and asking her to spend the night, prosecutors said.

Emil Agaronov, 41, allegedly asked the pre-teen for a hug around 10 a.m. July 28 inside Andries Hudde I.S. 240 on Nostrand Avenue near Avenue K in East Midwood, according to a criminal complaint.

He was arrested Wednesday night and charged with endangering the welfare of a child and harassment, authorities said.

Amanda Woods

Farm Wisdom

Tradwife trend reveals healthy-living truths

KELLY McKENNA

THE most talked-about novel of 2026, “Yesteryear,” dramatizes the tradwife trend that Instagram and TikTok can’t seem to get enough of.

Influencers like Ballerina Farm have turned an agrarian lifestyle into a true social media phenomenon, and Caro Claire Burke’s bestselling book is making it even bigger. Even Anne Hathaway is bewitched — she’s purchased the novel’s film rights.

But the trend isn’t just about rustic aesthetics, sourdough starters and nostalgia. As late-summer harvest season gets into full swing, popular accounts that showcase homesteading — growing and raising food close to home — are tapping into something much bigger.

Aristide Economopoulos

Good habits: Amish kids walk more — and avoid chronic disease.

It turns out that keeping chickens, growing vegetables and building family-centered lives aren’t just good for driving social-media clicks. They’re also habits associated with better long-term health, medical researchers increasingly find.

And that’s something Americans urgently need. Chronic disease has become this nation’s defining public-health challenge: 76% of US adults and 40% of our children live with at least one chronic disease. Aside from genetics these diseases, generally speaking, are shaped by daily behaviors, daily environments and access to care over time.

So why are so many of us sick? And can our sudden fascination with historic ways of living — lifestyles that look very different from our own — help us find solutions?

Those are the questions I was pondering when I traveled to Amish country recently. I arrived curious about a different culture — and left with a new perspective on modern medicine.

It wasn’t the horse-drawn buggies that struck me, but what I learned about the health of the people riding in them. When researchers at the University of Maryland assessed more than 5,300 “Old Order” Amish adults in Lancaster County, Pa., against a national comparison group, they found dramatically lower rates of diabetes (3.3% vs.13.2%), hypertension (12.7% vs. 37.8%), and high cholesterol (26.2% vs. 35.7%) among the Amish.

Similarly, Ohio State University researchers found that cancer rates among Amish residents of Holmes County, where I visited, were just 56% of the US average.

Amish children, researchers have found, show remarkably low rates of asthma and allergies. It’s not yet clear why, but the evidence suggests that the daily practices Amish communities have quietly embraced for generations, and are hallmarks of today’s homesteading movement, may be genuinely protective against chronic disease — working outdoors, cultivating and eating locally grown food, and building daily life around family and community.

Consider movement: Old Order Amish adults average approximately 14,000 to 18,000 daily steps. The average American adult spends eight to nine hours sitting each day — and walks just 4,000 to 5,000 steps.

How about community: Nearly one in three American households is now solo, which carries up to a 32% higher risk of premature death. Among Amish individuals, marriage remains nearly universal, and Amish families average six-plus kids.

There’s also technology: US teens now average more than eight hours of screen time per day outside of school, whereas Amish communities largely abstain from leisure-time technology use.

Modern medicine is increasingly affirming many of these same principles. The surgeon general warns about loneliness and excess screen time. The American Academy of Pediatrics calls for kids to spend more time outside. The American Medical Association cautions against diets of ultra-processed food.

State legislatures are catching on. Bipartisan support for “cottage food” reform — removing regulations to make it easier for families to produce and sell homemade foods — has been spreading across red and blue states alike, reflecting a growing recognition that local food production and home-based living still have a place.

The practices preserved in Amish communities demonstrate that the foundations of good health have been available to us all along. And our chronic-disease crisis may not be a matter of what medicine is missing, but of what modern life has forgotten.

Perhaps that’s one reason “Yesteryear” has resonated: The best stories change our perspective long before they change our minds. The novel’s time-traveling protagonist gets to experience a shortcut through time and space, allowing her to see what would take years to understand.

I went to Amish country expecting to feel like I was stepping back in time. I came away wondering if I’d just caught a glimpse of the future.

Kelly McKenna is CEO of the nonprofit End Chronic Disease.

FAST TAKES

Conservative: China Bloc’s ‘Wedge’ Drive

“Moscow is expanding its violation of Western sovereignty in new and volatile ways,” warns Commentary’s Seth Mandel, while Chinese spyware was just found in “spy drones used by Britain’s elite special forces,” surely not “the only case in which Chinese parts are sending data back home.” But “testing the West’s defenses this way is typical behavior from the wider China-led bloc.” Many of Hamas’ rocket attacks before Oct. 7 “were meant to test Israel’s missile defense but also to see how the IDF responded,” and “the propaganda campaigns that fuel anti-Western activism are a key part of this” total-spectrum warfare, which is “intended to isolate members of the alliance of democracies to prevent them from sharing military know-how and intelligence.” The US must be “clear-eyed” about those “seeking to drive a wedge between us and our allies.”

From the left: DNC Out To Void Your Vote

This month, the Democratic National Committee means to “ban state parties from using ranked choice voting to select delegates in the 2028 presidential primary cycle,” fumes Cynthia Richie Terrell at RealClear Politics. Argh! This reform gives “a second chance to voters whose candidate finishes below the 15% threshold that the party establishes to earn delegates.” Where used in 2020, it ensured that “voters ended up with their vote counting toward a candidate earning delegates.” Polling by Terrell’s group RepresentWomen found 78% of voters favor having the “flexibility to support their preferred candidate” much more than letting parties “control who’s on the ballot.” Ranked choice also rewards “the candidate who can help unify the party,” no long forcing “voters into limited choices they didn’t ask for.”

Wildfire watch: The World Is Burning Less

Headlines about wildfires in Canada miss “the most remarkable fact” about the fires: This year, every continent is “burning less than usual,” reports Bjorn Lomborg in The Wall Street Journal, with North and South America both at a “record-low burn” since 2012. Smoke deaths, the “deadliest aspect of fires,” are also down. Most media coverage “cherry-picks” smaller areas experiencing lots of fires, ignoring the broader picture, “positive news in fire statistics” that should “give pause to climate alarmists.” Yet climate isn’t the “main determiner” for wildfires and “decarbonization” is not the solution. The real answer is “adaptation,” particularly “prescribed burning — deliberate, controlled fires that clear out the deadwood and undergrowth that turn ordinary fires into monsters,” a practice that “Canada has all but abandoned.”

From the right: ‘Woke 2’ Will Be Crazier Still

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez just waved off “Woke 1,” the “unhinged cultural revolution” we had during COVID, as “crazy.” But if AOC could be swept up in “mass societal hysteria” once, than “it can easily happen again,” argues the Washington Examiner’s David Harsanyi. Most likely, ahead of a “run for the presidency or perhaps for the Senate,” she simply “realizes that woke ideology” just “isn’t liked by vast swaths of the public,” so downplays it. Woke 1’s “high-tech progressive jihadused public shame, intimidation and “economic ruin” to determine which words and ideas were allowed — but “what kind of crazy” is in store when “Woke 2 gets its hands on state power?”

Education beat: Head Start Is a Failure

“Head Start does not ‘work,’ ” roars Heather Mac Donald at City Journal. “The most significant research ever done on Head Start” revealed “that any early gains in school readiness among enrollees had faded by the end of first grade and were absent by third grade” — and all efforts “to discredit this ‘fadeout’ effect have failed.” That prompted attempts to show it had “non-cognitive benefits, such as alleged small improvements in high school and college completion rates, workforce participation, and wages,” but “later studies dispute even those findings.” These programs, and add-ons like Mayor Mamdani’s $9 billion free-child-care program, really succeed “only for the interest groups that get paid regardless of whether their work accomplishes anything.”

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

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Luigi Is Contemptible

Luigi Mangione's federal guilty plea, which should also end his state court case, spares his victim's family the spectacle of a trial, but in reality no one ever much doubted that he did it — especially not his depraved fans.

His lawyer's talk of the murder as a "tragic event" and the killer as a victim of "the system" barely skirts the surface of the vile delusions required to defend his actions: Meticulously plotting and executing the murder of an innocent man.

The killer's justification only makes the crime more repugnant.

First, because assassination is an attack on our free society, and on its ample mechanisms for addressing complaints like Mangione's.

Second, because even if his pathetic critique of "the system" made the *least* bit of sense, killing Brian Thompson was never going to change a damn thing beyond robbing his family of this husband and father.

For the record, running a major health-insurance company is *admirable* work, playing an important role in how our society — our democratically elected government — has decided to distribute limited resources in the medical sphere.

Is the system flawed? God, yes — but it beats most of the alternatives.

Lots of folks have *far* deeper gripes with socialized-medicine systems, for example — however little it occurs to the Luigites to learn what other people think, and why.

And improving the system isn't remotely a matter of identifying the bad guys and making them stop doing their bad things; that approach is no more mature than holding your breath until you get your way.

If Mangione is to receive any mercy, he should admit his vile errors — and name them publicly, in hopes of helping his fans grow behind their juvenile foolishness.

Yet he seemingly decided against an insanity plea because he didn't want to admit his actions were crazy, so we fear he's unlikely to admit they were morally perverse, either.

If he is nuts, he might merit our pity; if not, then Luigi Mangione deserves only contempt. He wasted his own life with this twisted killing, and anyone idolizing him is twisted, too.

Mike Mulgrew's Lame Blame Game

We're on Mayor Mamdani's side on this one: United Federation of Teachers chief Mike Mulgrew is trying to blame this year's dismal public-school scores on state reading exams on how the Department of Education administered the literacy curriculum this past year.

As the new NYC Reads phases in, Mulgrew whines, "The DOE needs to make sure each school has a clear instructional plan," including "eliminating unnecessary paperwork and assessments."

This is a blatant "not our fault" offensive by the union boss, after kids in grades 3-8 saw a 6% drop in their English scores from last year, with more than half in grades 3 to 5 rating not at all proficient. In fact, the UFT has made the system a mess by protecting outright incompetents and opposing any form of teacher accountability.

Notice Mulgrew's gripe about "unnecessary assessments": Teachers unions *despise* objective exams that reveal how little the kids have learned.

And the DOE bureaucracy plays along: It's delaying the release of the data on how students at the city's public *charter* schools did on those same exams, but the Success Academy network reports that 91% of its scholars rated proficient in English, 96% in math.

Yet Mulgrew pretends that DOE administrators are what stop his members from matching the charters' results. Hah! DOE classes don't even start until Sept. 10 this year because Mulgrew negotiated a contract that entitles teachers to two prep days after Labor Day before the kids show up. Success schools are already back.

Mulgrew & Co. get paid good money — six figures, with the whole summer off — to produce good results.

He should shut up and teach.

150 Arrests and He Still Walks

You can rack up almost 150 arrests in this town and *still* walk when caught again, thanks to "criminal-justice reform."

Meet career crook Shaquan Seth, cut loose last week after *five* shoplifting busts in Queens — less than six days after he got out of Riker after a five-month stint for past thievery — because New York law forbids cash bail for offenses like his.

No matter that he was no sooner back on the streets than he was eagerly reoffending, nor that he stole $600 worth of fancy candles, when the no-bail believers insist such theft is mostly out of need. No matter that he threatened to shoot a young female clerk who was brave enough to try stopping him.

Back on the street he went, so you'll be reading about Shaquan Seth again in these pages. We hope it's not because he's made good on his promise to shoot someone.

Yet our "reformed" laws *encourage* years of offending and reoffending as the perp gradually works his way up from petty crime to homicide. Seth has already done time for larceny, robbery, resisting arrest and assaulting a cop; he won't stop at candle theft.

He belongs in prison (or, conceivably, locked up in a mental institution). The progressive lawmakers who've made it all but impossible to keep such menaces the street are still working to further empty New York's jails and prisons — proving conclusively whose side they're on.

It isn't yours.

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letters@nypost.com

NY's Low Literacy Rates Call for Urgent Change

THE ISSUE: Majority of third- to fifth-grade students in New York public schools failing their ELA test.

•There is no excuse for the declining literacy of New York students ("95% give NYC schools a failing grade," Aug. 9).

My parents attended segregated schools in the Jim Crow South and still knew how to read, even though their schools didn't receive the same amount of funding and attention as other schools.

Why don't we go back to teaching children how to read the way anyone over the age of 40 learned how to read: good old-fashioned phonics?

James Johnson
Brooklyn

•What is missing from stories about the abysmal reading and math scores in grades 3-8 is consideration of the cultures children live with at home. The awful teachers unions are culpable, but no more so than these children's parents and guardians.

Speaking English proficiently, reading to your children and emphasizing learning — rather than watching TV — are crucial example-setting activities. To believe otherwise is a nanny-state mentality that will continue to result in wasted taxpayer money.

Cary MacDonald
Boulder, Colo.

The UFT's Mike Mulgrew

•Many decades ago, the method of teaching reading in public schools was changed from phonics to the dumb "look-say." Now, New York City public school students can barely trudge through a sentence when asked to read from a selection.

Meanwhile, parochial school students are excellent readers. Why? Many parochial schools kept the phonics method of teaching reading.

Public schools have wasted endless dollars on education methods that don't work. Parents must insist the city rely much more on phonics.

Maureen Healy
Manhattan

•The United Federation of Teachers deserves most of the blame for the stunning drop in ELA proficiency, but another factor must be considered, and not just in New York City.

Today's families need to have two incomes. That means kids are getting picked up by a latchkey program, instead of after-school hours. Then comes preparing dinner, cleaning up and baths. Throw in weekend chores and organized activities, and parents are overwhelmed.

Parents today lack the time to sit and read with their children, the way it used to be when I was a youngster.

Rob Feuerstein
Staten Island

•Remote learning during school closures forced by the teacher unions' was a learning and developmental disaster for all children. Parents, especially the poor, need to demand school choice.

Also, The Post should investigate where the politicians and teacher union members send their children to be educated.

Bruce Collins
Middletown, NJ

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President Trump's Vax Attack

THE ISSUE: President Trump's executive order affirming the CDC's new childhood vaccine schedule.

•I had a friend in college who had polio. Additionally, my late wife suffered from that dreadful disease ("Vax 'split' decision," Aug. 11).

Having seen the challenging lives they led, I cannot understand how any caring parent would not vaccinate his or her child based on a medically-recommended schedule — not one endorsed by an unqualified politician and his equally unqualified health secretary.

Paul Newman
Merion Station, Pa.

•Science says vaccines don't cause autism. Yet President Trump and his supporters are promoting this fallacy and even issuing executive orders that should be shredded.

Vaccines should be available to everyone, free of cost and easily accessible, but that's not the reality. Getting three vaccines at once takes less time, costs less for appointments and you don't have to worry about forgetting one. Separating the shots will not help anyone.

Dennis Fitzgerald
Box Hill, Australia

E-MAIL: letters@nypost.com or **WRITE** to The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

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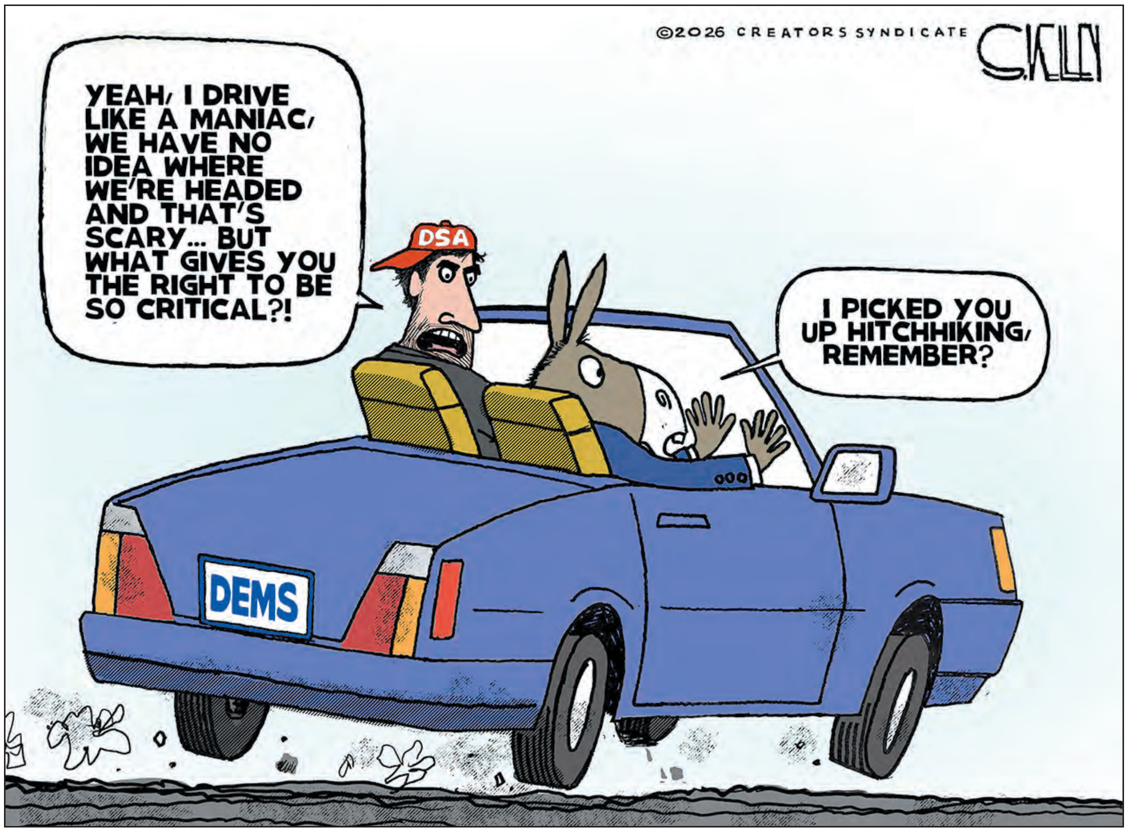
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C.KELLY
YEAH, I DRIVE LIKE A MANIAC, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE WE'RE HEADED AND THAT'S SCARY... BUT WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO BE SO CRITICAL?!
DSA
I PICKED YOU UP HITCHHIKING, REMEMBER?
DEMS

GREENS HALT HOUSING

ROBERT VERBRUGGEN

IN my childhood, the concept of "endangered species" evoked beautiful, threatened creatures in desperate need of saving — your pandas, whales or all-American bald eagles. Today, it's become synonymous with development projects held up over some obscure frog no one cares about.

In one hilarious reversal of fortune for environmentalists, scientists recently discovered that the snail darter, a small fish that controversially delayed a major dam project in the 1970s, isn't even a unique species. Now we're learning that the ever-expanding list of species that America considers endangered has helped drive the bedeviling problem of affordable housing.

A new paper for the Journal of Public Economics by economist Maxwell Tabarrok traces how the federal Endangered Species Act, passed in 1973, affects housing permits. He found a substantial impact: "Species listings reduce annual permit flows by . . . about 10% of the average annual flow."

That's somewhere around 9 million housing permits affected in total since 1980 — most of which appear to have been lost, not merely moved elsewhere, in Tabarrok's estimation. In other words, the ESA is one factor constraining housing supply — having cost us perhaps 4% of the total stock at this point — and driving up prices.

The act, Tabarrok explains, makes it illegal to "harm" or "harass" a listed animal. This can include not just paving over its territory, but even light pollution and stormwater runoff. When a species is listed, building projects in areas where it lives can require modifications, be called off entirely, or never get off the ground to begin with.

To quantify the effect on building permits, Tabarrok combined permit data from a census survey with data on species listings and habitats — a large undertaking that matched different types of geography and jurisdictions.

In 1970 there were only 82 endangered species; two decades later the number was getting close to 500. Last year it reached nearly 1,500.

Endangered-species habitats now cover most of the United States, often overlapping with each other, and they especially blanket California and Florida. That might be bad news for development, but it also facilitates the use of modern statistical methods.

Each time a new species listing affects some parts of the country but not others, it creates a sort of natural experiment — did permitting trends suddenly change in the affected places relative to others? Focusing on the 1980-2024 period, Tabarrok implemented this basic concept in a few different ways, with similar conclusions.

His various approaches make different technical tradeoffs and vary in how they try to address the study's biggest limitation — namely, that endangered-species listings might not be a random shock to development that can be analyzed as an experiment.

For example, previous development might have *caused* a species to become endangered, or it could have prompted lobbyists to push for or against new listings (though this decision isn't supposed to involve consideration of economic impacts). It's also possible that places that are home to endangered species might simply be different, in important ways, from places that don't.

Tabarrok also dug into a few smaller questions: For example, he found no effect from species listings that are merely proposed and not yet enforced — and a reversal of the effect when a species is de-listed.

And when he added satellite data on land use to his dataset, he found similar impacts on "greenfield" projects proposed to be built on undeveloped land and on "infill" projects, new construction in already-developed areas. That's significant, because an "infill" project will generally mean less change to the overall habitat — suggesting that the letter of the law, not the real-world impact on endangered species, is the constraining factor.

There is, of course, a real tradeoff between building enough housing where people need it and protecting species we're in danger of losing. But with endangered-species habitats blanketing the country and millions of housing projects lost, perhaps we've let environmentalists win some battles they should not have.

Adapted from City Journal on Substack.

Overseas Elex Cash Isn't From *Israel*

JOSH HAMMER

MORE than any political cycle in memory, the 2026 primary campaign season has been marked by frequent, and often hysterical, condemnations of the influence of the so-called "Israel lobby."

After the conspiratorial gadfly Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) lost his Republican primary in May, he quipped about the Trump-endorsed former Navy SEAL officer who defeated him: "I would have come out sooner, but I had to call my opponent and concede, and it took a while to find Ed Gallrein in Tel Aviv." Way to question the patriotism of a decorated SEAL Team Six veteran, Tom. Keep it classy!

For Democrats, the bogeyman du jour has been the America Israel Public Affairs Committee. Some successful Democratic candidates, such as Abdul El-Sayed in Arab-heavy Michigan, rode anti-AIPAC fervor to victory.

And some losing candidates, such as the comically corrupt Cori Bush in St. Louis, blamed AIPAC for their rejection. In her concession speech, Bush vowed to dismantle AIPAC's "kingdom."

These (literal) losers are barking up the wrong tree. Massie had become a thorn in President Trump's side, regularly voting against him on domestic priorities. That, not any pro-Israel spending, is why Massie went down in flames.

For Democrats, El-Sayed's success alone belies the popular mythology of AIPAC as a juggernaut. Even more to the point: AIPAC is a group of activist *Americans* who lobby and deploy money for an issue they care about. Fact is, AIPAC is no different than the NRA or the NAACP.

Sore loser hysterics notwithstanding, there *is* truth to the allegation of meddlesome foreign interference in American politics. But that interference isn't coming from Israel: It's coming from terror-tied Islamic groups and Islamic governments.

> **Seedy foreign cash . . . is not coming from where the propagandists say it is.**

El-Sayed's wealthy father-in-law Jukaku Tayeb contributed $200,000 to a super PAC backing his son-in-law. This is no tale of innocent family kumbaya: Tayeb is a founding committee member of the Islamic Society of North America, an organization long tied to Hamas and the broader Muslim Brotherhood network. ISNA was named an unindicted coconspirator in the then-largest terror financing case in Justice Department history, the 2008 case against the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation.

El-Sayed has also raised more than $115,000 from individuals who have worked for another unindicted coconspirator from the HLF bust, the Council on American-Islamic Relations. That donor pipeline includes CAIR higher-ups, such as the organization's national board chair, Manal Fakhoury.

Lest we forget: CAIR was founded in 1994 as a front group to advance the interests of Hamas and the Brotherhood in the United States. CAIR's co-founder and executive director, Nihad Awad, said he was "happy to see" the Hamas pogrom of Oct. 7, 2023. And the United Arab Emirates has designated CAIR as a terrorist organization — as have Texas and Florida, more recently.

This stench is hardly limited to El-Sayed. According to sharia-law-promoting former Women's March co-chair Linda Sarsour, CAIR was the single "largest institutional donor" to the Unity and Justice Fund PAC, which spent massively in New York City last year to send Zohran Mamdani to Gracie Mansion. Another shady super PAC, American Priorities, has "channeled millions of dollars, primarily from donors with Arab, Muslim and/or Middle Eastern backgrounds, to a string of winning candidates in high-profile races," Benjamin Weingarten of RealClear Investigations reports.

That's bad enough. But there's also massive infiltration at the national level.

Last year, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia deployed the single largest sum of money of any foreign country — nearly $92 million — to lobby for its interests in Washington. Turkey was fourth; Israel wasn't anywhere close. In the two decades beginning in 2001, the kingdom — whose nationals included most of the 9/11 hijackers that same year — retained the single most agents registered under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (148).

Saudi frenemy Qatar, the spiritual and financial home of the Brotherhood worldwide, is routinely the single largest foreign funder of American higher education. The Qataris cut massive FARA checks to land favorable coverage with prized outlets, such as Tucker Carlson's cesspool of a podcast.

Getting the picture? Seedy foreign cash *is* shaping our culture and our politics. But it's not coming from where the propagandists say it is.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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I_1 I_1 O_1 D_2 D_2 S_1 C_3 — RACK 1

O_1 O_1 H_4 K_5 N_1 S_1 C_3 — 3rd Letter Triple — RACK 2

E_1 E_1 I_1 O_1 D_2 C_3 C_3 — Double Word Score — RACK 3

A_1 O_1 U_1 N_1 F_4 M_3 D_2 — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170
BEST SCORE 221

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

		SOLUTION
RACK 1 =	D_2 I_1 S_1 C_3 O_1 I_1 D_2	61
RACK 2 =	S_1 C_3 H_4 N_1 O_1 O_1 K_5	74
RACK 3 =	E_1 C_3 O_1 C_3 I_1 D_2 E_1	74
RACK 4 =	F_4 A_1 N_1 D_2 O_1 M_3	12
TOTAL		221

PAR SCORE 160-170

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 10 7 2
♡ 6 5
◇ 10 7 4
♣ K Q J 3

WEST
♠ Q 5 3
♡ K Q 10 7 4
◇ K 6
♣ 9 5 2

EAST
♠ K J 9 8
♡ 9 3 2
◇ J 5 3
♣ 10 8 7

SOUTH
♠ 6 4
♡ A J 8
◇ A Q 9 8 2
♣ A 6 4

South	West	North	East
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ◇	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead – ♡ K

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Simple Saturday columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

The literature includes many learned plays. (That's "learn-ed" with two syllables, meaning erudite, not "learned," meaning absorbed.) I see players make learn-ed plays trying to demonstrate erudition -- and fall on their face.

Against 3NT, West led the king of hearts, and South thought it would be cool to play low, a "Bath Coup": West couldn't lead another heart without giving South two heart tricks. But East signaled with the deuce, and West shifted to a spade.

If South took dummy's ace, the defense would get three spades, a diamond and a heart. So dummy played low, but East won and led a heart, forcing out the ace. When West took the king of diamonds, he cashed three hearts. Down two.

South needed to save the erudition for some other deal. He must win the first heart, lead a club to dummy and pass the seven of diamonds. He sets up 10 winners, and his jack of hearts is safe from attack.

Word Force

INDICATOR

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 19** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN MONDAY'S POST
Yesterday's word:
FIREBREAK

baker	brief	friar
biker	faker	kefir
brake	fiber	refer
break	freak	

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BEES SOMETIMES STING — **Solution: 5 letters**

S	I	S	P	R	I	N	G	S	R	E	W	O	L	F
S	W	C	N	E	E	U	Q	S	H	A	R	P	O	R
L	S	E	E	L	Y	S	T	I	N	G	E	R	Z	E
A	O	E	L	P	W	N	G	X	T	S	E	N	Z	T
C	A	O	N	L	A	N	O	A	P	S	A	W	U	S
I	P	M	E	D	I	C	A	L	T	O	G	U	B	I
M	R	A	W	S	E	N	K	Y	O	N	N	Y	U	L
E	Y	E	S	N	I	R	G	H	I	C	R	H	M	B
H	G	E	H	A	N	D	S	P	Y	U	U	C	B	A
C	R	V	O	V	N	R	M	A	J	D	B	T	L	C
D	E	O	R	E	G	A	D	N	A	B	E	I	E	K
H	L	M	N	N	C	H	I	A	D	C	O	M	B	Y
S	L	E	E	O	Y	C	N	E	G	R	E	M	E	A
A	A	R	T	M	E	R	U	T	C	N	U	P	E	R
R	E	A	C	T	I	O	N	I	K	S	C	O	L	D

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Allergy, Anaphylaxis, Backyard, Bandage, Blister, Bumblebee, Burn, Buzz, Camping, Chemical, Cold, Colony, Comb, Dressing, Emergency, Flowers, Forest, Hands, Hornet, Ice Pack, Injury, Itchy, Medical, Nest, Orchard, Pollen, Puncture, Queen, Rash, Reaction, Redness, Remedy, Remove, Rinse, Sharp, Skin, Soap, Spring, Stinger, Swarm, Swelling, Venom, Wasp

Yesterday's Answer: Nightgown

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 32

© Syndicated Puzzles

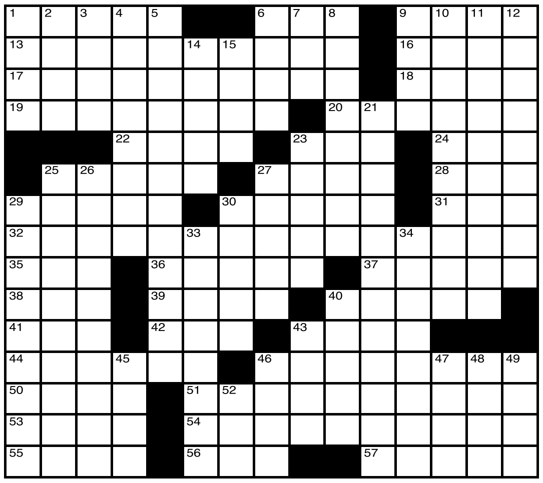
Very Easy #7,371

			3				6	
				6			8	9
1		3		9		5		4
5	7		6		9			1
			2	1	8			
8			7		5		2	3
3		1		8		4		7
4	9			5				
	8				3			

Difficult #7,161

	5			9		6		
	3						9	8
1					2		4	7
			1		8		2	
	7		4		3			
9	1		6					3
3	6						1	
				8			7	

Quick Crossword



Across

1 Teddy bear
6 Carousel rider?
9 Basaltic plain on the moon
13 Roadside snack
16 Driver on a movie set
17 Sign that means it's time to turn around
18 Spam musubi wrapper
19 White-hot
20 Lights up
22 Quick kiss
23 Useful spot
24 Some sci-fi villains
25 Multipurpose tool
27 Verb coined in "Stranger in a Strange Land"
28 Hindi honorific
29 Berry grown in Ohio?
30 Jordan who won an Oscar for Best Original Screenplay
31 Org chart leader
32 "Sure, that tracks"
35 "J to __ L-O!": 2002 remix album
36 Replacements after leaving marks?
37 Huffs and puffs
38 __ de deux
39 Mass agreement
40 Huffs and puffs
41 "Yes, captain"
42 Clear (of)
43 Clear of contaminants
44 Varied
46 Opportunities to learn the hard way
50 Mil. no-show
51 "Mine! Mine! Mine!"
53 "The Goonies" role for Ke Huy Quan
54 Brings the temperature down, maybe
55 Googly-__
56 Fashion letters
57 Trapped, in a way

Down

1 Fed. IDs
2 Della Warrior's heritage
3 Priceless?
4 One-night stand, perhaps?
5 Frustrated expression
6 [All of a sudden!]
7 Stanford's gp.
8 Disbands?
9 Digital art, informally?
10 Juvenile
11 Special indulgences
12 Targets of smog checks
14 Bridge unit
15 Choke
21 One who tries not to overshadow the star?
23 Feeds (on)
25 "Shantay, you stay" opposite
26 "This is important"
27 Mount
29 Top tunes
30 Trimmed (down)
33 Hair curler?
34 1982 Hall & Oates song
40 Shows signs of age
43 Chappell Roan's "__ Pony Club"
45 Chuffed
46 Edina, Minnesota is home to the first U.S. indoor one
47 Lucci role
48 Conditional word in Python
49 Blair Braverman vehicle
52 Portrayed

I	S	A	Y	■	O	P	R	A	H	■	F	A	C	E
T	H	R	U	■	S	L	I	C	E	■	E	T	A	S
H	A	N	K	■	S	U	N	K	E	N	D	O	L	L
E	N	E	■	S	I	M	S	■	■	A	U	N	T	■
L	I	T	T	L	E	B	O	S	U	N	P	E	E	P
P	A	T	I	O	■	■	■	A	H	A	■	F	C	C
■	■	■	T	A	U	■	N	S	A	■	M	O	H	S
■	■	S	U	N	D	R	Y	H	U	M	O	R	■	■
A	C	E	S	■	D	E	C	■	L	E	T	■	■	■
W	A	R	■	P	E	P	■	■	■	L	E	N	D	S
W	R	I	T	E	R	S	S	U	N	B	L	O	C	K
■	D	A	R	A	■	■	A	S	E	A	■	B	A	Y
S	O	L	A	R	P	O	W	E	R	■	N	A	R	C
T	O	N	Y	■	A	W	A	R	D	■	I	K	E	A
P	R	O	S	■	M	E	S	S	Y	■	T	E	A	M

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Dow Jones Indust. Avg. **Down 107.58** **53,732.41**

Nasdaq Comp. **Down 73.86** **26,729.16**

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Marts sputter

Stocks closed lower on Friday as the S&P 500 dipped from a record high, weighed down by chip equipment maker Applied Materials. The benchmark and tech-heavy Nasdaq still finished with weekly gains for the third week in a row.

Alphabet add

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway boosted the size of its investment in Alphabet by 83% in the second quarter, making the parent of Google and YouTube its third-largest stock holding.

PayPal talks

Struggling PayPal is in talks to sell itself to a group that includes Stripe and the private-equity firm Advent International, The Wall Street Journal reported. Stripe and Advent had made a proposal last month.

FTC probing

Epic Systems, a healthcare database company that holds the medical records of hundreds of millions of Americans, is facing an antitrust investigation by the Federal Trade Commission.

Lift for drones

Shares of drone makers, including Red Cat and Unusual Machines, soared after President Trump said he would impose tariffs on imports of drones.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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'JEFF' $LEAZE PLAY

AI big Amodei's wife begged Ep for porn $$

By MARC VARTABEDIAN

Behind every man . . .

"We have the free luxury porn company. Does that ring a bell?"

— Cami Clark email to Jeffrey Epstein

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei (above) gets help running Anthropic from wife Cami Clark (left), who pursued Jeffrey Epstein (inset) for money to start a porn company, according to a report.

Getty Images; DOJ

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei's wife Cami Clark played a bigger role in the AI juggernaut's meteoric rise than previously known after her own forays in entrepreneurship — which included a failed fundraising pitch to late financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein for a "luxury" porn startup, according to a report.

Before she met AI guru Amodei, Clark and a friend started a "revolutionary porn company" aimed at making classy smut that was billed as "intellectually promiscuous," The Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

The company, called Eddice, reportedly had a website that featured content with titles like "Lady Porn Day" and "Orgasm, Inc."

After an intro to Epstein in 2011, Clark reportedly sent him a warm follow-up, writing: "Hello Jeffrey! We would love to have dinner with you this evening." She sent him her cellphone number, too.

Clark followed up by writing, "We thought you and the ladies might enjoy the script/treatment for our first 4 films, American Girl in Paris. A little nsfw" or not safe for work.

Ringing the bell

A year later, Clark wrote Epstein again to pitch him on investing in her business, which she said had just hired someone from Oprah Winfrey's company and Ashton Kutcher's Katalyst, the media company that launched shows like "Punk'd."

When Epstein at first didn't recall her, Clark wrote, "We have the free luxury porn company. Does that ring a bell?"

Epstein wrote back, "Yes, a loud gong," prompting a playful reply from Clark: "Haha, I was going to say, you would be the first person that didn't remember us."

Epstein, who was a registered sex offender at the time, turned down the offer, saying, "Can't do sex TV."

Clark stayed in touch with Epstein over two years, the Journal reported, inviting him to a Manhattan housewarming party for her and her porn-biz co-founder Michelle Capocefalo.

In 2013, Epstein reportedly received a LinkedIn message stating he should congratulate Clark for becoming CEO of "Female Algorithm Technologies" — online traces of which include a Tumblr account featuring photos of nude women, a pic of Steve Jobs and mottos such as "Great Minds F--k Each Other" and "Let's Make Lots of Money," according to the Journal.

The relationship was part of a colorful series of adventures among the world's tech and business elite for Clark, who is known to keep a low profile. Searches for "Dario Amodei's wife" on Google often turn up a photograph of his sister, Daniela Amodei, who helps run Anthropic, the Journal noted. Anthropic's AI chatbot Claude is wont to tell users, "Dario Amodei's marital status doesn't seem to be clearly confirmed."

Just before meeting Amodei, Clark dated Google co-founder Eric Schmidt for about three years, according to the Journal.

Little is known about the relationship, but they apparently stayed on good terms — after she reportedly began dating Amodei in 2014, she put her ex in touch with her new beau.

While Clark doesn't officially work at Anthropic, her fingerprints are all over the company as it races toward a public listing that could top $2 trillion this fall. She acts as Amodei's strategic adviser and is often seen sitting front and center while her husband talks at events.

Anthropic didn't respond to a request for comment.

Retail-sales dip curbs growth outlook

US retail sales fell in July for the first time in nine months as the boost from big tax refunds faded, suggesting that consumer spending was slowing down and prompting economists to slash their economic growth estimates for the third quarter.

The unexpected decline in retail sales reported by the Commerce Department on Friday was also payback after Amazon pulled forward its Prime Day event to June from July, with other retailers offering competing promotions. A retreat in gasoline prices also weighed on receipts at service stations.

The report added to unexpected job losses last month and mild inflation readings in bolstering financial market expectations that the Federal Reserve would not raise interest rates in September, barring upward surprises to August price and employment data.

"This, together with a weaker jobs report and subdued core CPI inflation, raises the odds of the FOMC staying patient again in September," said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Retail sales dropped 0.6% last month after an unrevised 0.2% gain in June. The decline was the first since last October and was the largest in 14 months. *Reuters*

NY Mag axes 'copy' machine

New York Magazine fired lefty political writer Ross Barkan, one of the biggest boosters of Mayor Mamdani in NYC journalism, for ripping off other authors' work a shocking 67 times.

Prior to becoming mayor, Mamdani served as campaign manager for Barkan's failed state Senate campaign, a fact the writer frequently mentioned on his Substack and other platforms.

New York Magazine — which recently came under fire for an anti-Israel story — launched a review of Barkan's work after a Washington Post reporter noticed striking similarities between the lead of one of his stories and the lead Barkan wrote about the same subject in May.

New York Magazine said it found 67 Barkan columns "that did not include proper attribution of language, information and/or sourcing."

The publication said it was updating those pieces with proper attribution.

The firing was a humiliating blow to the writer (right), who regularly heaped praise on Mamdani in pieces in high-brow lefty publications, calling the mayor's 2025 election victory "seismic" in The Nation.

"We've decided to end the column and I send all the best to New York Magazine," the ink-stained wretch said in a statement to The Post. *Alexandra Steigrad*

'Better' you stayed?

Interim CEO on vacay faces coup by founder

By ARIEL ZILBER

He wants his old office back

Vishal Garg (left), who was pushed out from Better.com — the mortgage-lender site he founded — less than two weeks ago is already trying to depose interim CEO Daniel Lewis (below) and five board members by rallying like-thinking shareholders.

Getty Images

Better.com's new interim chief executive flew to the South of France for vacation during his first full week on the job — even as the mortgage lender's founder was busy orchestrating a coup to unseat him, The Post has learned.

Ousted founder Vishal Garg, who made headlines in 2021 when he fired 900 workers on a Zoom call, has lined up investors representing 52% of the embattled company's voting shares in a bid to boot interim CEO Daniel Lewis and five board members, according to well-placed sources.

Lewis had told numerous people inside the company that he planned to spend the week in the South of France, sources said.

One source said Lewis subsequently appeared on a Zoom call from what looked like a vacation setting in a different time zone. His planned trip had been openly discussed inside Better and was not a secret, sources said.

"It's sad Vishal's life's work underperformed Treasury securities," Lewis told The Post in a statement.

"I've never obliterated billions of dollars of shareholder value from any place at all."

The getaway comes amid an escalating battle for control of Better, with dissident shareholders already sending demands to the company's lawyers and preparing to forcibly remove Lewis and the directors through a shareholder vote if they refuse to resign, according to sources.

The insurgent group has retained powerhouse law firm Quinn Emanuel, which has compiled shareholder consents representing the voting bloc, the sources said.

The process of forcing a shareholder vote could take as little as 10 days — although other avenues could stretch the showdown to 35 days, according to sources.

The revolt comes less than two weeks after Better abruptly dumped Garg as CEO and replaced him with Lewis, an investor who had joined the company's board only about a week earlier, according to sources.

Better said Friday that every director other than Garg had unanimously voted to terminate him following "a series of decisions and actions that raised serious concerns regarding his judgment, temperament and credibility."

JPM dumps Polymarket

JPMorgan Chase ended its banking relationship with prediction market Polymarket last October over regulatory concerns, The Wall Street Journal reported Friday

The move adds fuel to fights in Washington over debanking and growing nationwide scrutiny of prediction markets' business practices, though the bank still maintains some ties to Polymarket and other prediction-market companies.

A Polymarket spokesman said the company maintains "a close, active relationship with JPMorgan across multiple entities." Polymarket CEO Shayne Coplan has spoken at three of the bank's events in the past year, the spokesman added.

JPMorgan was already in the Trump administration's crosshairs for alleged debanking, or improperly closing customer accounts for political reasons. *Dow Jones*

Bezos getting his kick$

Jeff Bezos is the new part-owner of one of the world's most celebrated soccer teams.

The billionaire founder of Amazon is among a group of investors that agreed Friday to buy a minority stake in Britain's Liverpool Football Club from Fenway Sports Group. The consortium is acquiring about a 33% stake in Liverpool in a deal that values the Premier League team, known as the Reds, at more than $7 billion, sources told The Wall Street Journal.

The deal is the latest example of the enduring appeal of top professional sports teams for the world's wealthiest. On Wednesday, a group led by Bob Iger and Josh Kushner struck a $12.5 billion deal to buy the Los Angeles Lakers.

The consortium buying the stake in Liverpool FC is led by Amit Bhatia, the son-in-law of Indian steel tycoon Lakshmi Mittal. *Dow Jones*

FBI's full court $$ press

The FBI seized the phones of billionaire Mark Walter and a top Guggenheim Investments executive last year as federal prosecutors investigated businesses in his sprawling financial empire — months before he struck a $12.5 billion deal to sell the Los Angeles Lakers to Josh Kushner and Bob Iger.

Agents took the phone of Guggenheim Investments President Dina DiLorenzo in September on the same day they seized Walter's phone and laptop, according to the Financial Times, citing sources.

The seizures indicate that federal scrutiny extended beyond Walter-controlled insurance companies — which previously disclosed subpoenas from the US attorney's office in Manhattan and the Securities and Exchange Commission — and reached Guggenheim, the $260 billion asset-management giant Walter leads as chief executive.

The news comes as authorities have been examining accounting and transactions involving businesses controlled by Walter, including Guggenheim and insurance companies he controls, according to reports. It's unclear what stage the investigations has reached.

Guggenheim and the Justice Department didn't respond to requests for comment. *Ariel Zilber*

$668M SoKo divorce halt

Billionaire tech mogul Chey Tae-won appealed a South Korean court ruling ordering him to pay $668.5 million to former wife Roh Soh-yeong in a record divorce settlement, the Yonhap news agency reported Friday.

The case has drawn attention because an AI boom has sharply increased the value of his SK conglomerate's semiconductor assets.

Chey's ex-wife is the daughter of former President Roh Tae-woo. Their 1988 nuptials had been called the country's "marriage of the century." *Wires*

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice of Intent is posted to advise that Nassau County intends to enter into a sole source agreement with the vendor Agilent Technologies for the purchase of an instrument service contract. This agreement will provide on-site support for the maintenance and repair of analytical instrumentation within the Nassau County Medical Examiner's Office.

The total amount of this procurement is $138,368.69. The county will accept questions or comments regarding the intended contract until August 26, 2026, at 2pm. Questions or comments must be submitted in writing to Timothy Hahn at thahn@nassaucountyny.gov.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of BC Wedding Co. LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/23/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Benjamin Cornejo: Benjamin.cornejo@yahoo.com. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

- **CAREERS**
- **MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**
- **PETS**
- **LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICE**

DEADLINES

Monday: Friday 2:30PM
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Golf

PGA Tour- FedEx St. Jude Championship
At TPC Southwind; Memphis, Tenn.; Purse: $20 million; Yardage: 7,288; Par: 70
Second Round

Scottie Scheffler	68-61	129	-11
Viktor Hovland	68-64	132	-8
Sungjae Im	66-66	132	-8
Ludvig Åberg	68-65	133	-7
Nicolas Echavarria	68-66	134	-6
Tommy Fleetwood	66-68	134	-6
Brian Harman	70-64	134	-6
Jordan Spieth	65-69	134	-6
Patrick Cantlay	69-66	135	-5
Wyndham Clark	69-66	135	-5
Jake Knapp	65-70	135	-5
Keith Mitchell	69-66	135	-5
Sudarshan Yellamaraju	70-65	135	-5
Chris Gotterup	66-70	136	-4
Hideki Matsuyama	66-70	136	-4
Patrick Rodgers	67-69	136	-4
Adam Scott	66-70	136	-4
Alex Smalley	68-68	136	-4
Sam Burns	67-70	137	-3
Pierceson Coody	71-66	137	-3
Matt Fitzpatrick	70-67	137	-3
Michael Kim	65-72	137	-3
Alex Noren	71-66	137	-3
Nick Taylor	69-68	137	-3
Justin Thomas	70-67	137	-3
Gary Woodland	66-71	137	-3
Bud Cauley	66-72	138	-2
Si Woo Kim	70-68	138	-2
Kurt Kitayama	65-73	138	-2
Min Woo Lee	67-71	138	-2
Maverick McNealy	68-70	138	-2
Aaron Rai	72-66	138	-2
Cameron Young	69-69	138	-2
Jacob Bridgeman	69-70	139	-1
Ryo Hisatsune	69-70	139	-1
J.T. Poston	71-68	139	-1
Xander Schauffele	67-72	139	-1
Ryan Gerard	70-70	140	E
Harry Hall	72-68	140	E
Max Homa	73-67	140	E
Collin Morikawa	71-69	140	E
J.J. Spaun	71-69	140	E
Sam Stevens	69-71	140	E
Michael Thorbjornsen	65-75	140	E
Rickie Fowler	68-73	141	+1
Russell Henley	71-70	141	+1
Tom Kim	69-72	141	+1
Jackson Koivun	71-70	141	+1
Shane Lowry	69-72	141	+1
Sepp Straka	68-73	141	+1
Sahith Theegala	69-72	141	+1
Corey Conners	71-71	142	+2
Aldrich Potgieter	71-71	142	+2
Michael Brennan	73-70	143	+3
Harris English	68-75	143	+3
Nicolai Højgaard	73-70	143	+3
Kristoffer Reitan	72-71	143	+3
Justin Rose	73-70	143	+3
Matti Schmid	73-70	143	+3
Akshay Bhatia	72-72	144	+4
Eric Cole	72-72	144	+4
Ben Griffin	73-71	144	+4
Rory McIlroy	74-70	144	+4
Jordan L. Smith	71-73	144	+4
Alex Fitzpatrick	71-74	145	+5
Matthew McCarty	73-72	145	+5
Ricky Castillo	72-74	146	+6
Ryan Fox	73-73	146	+6

LPGA Tour- The Standard Portland Classic
At Columbia Edgewater Country Club; Portland, Ore.; Purse: $2 million; Yardage: 6,541; Par: 72
Second Round

Arpichaya Yubol	66-66	132	-12
Pajaree Anannarukarn	67-66	133	-11
Hye Jin Choi	66-67	133	-11
Sophia Schubert	67-66	133	-11
Nataliya Guseva	67-68	135	-9
Erika Hara	69-66	135	-9
Grace Kim	66-69	135	-9
Morgane Metraux	68-67	135	-9
Hae-Ran Ryu	67-68	135	-9
Jeeno Thitikul	68-67	135	-9
Rose Zhang	70-65	135	-9
Celine Boutier	69-67	136	-8
Manon De Roey	67-69	136	-8
Mariel Galdiano	65-71	136	-8
Benedetta Moresco	67-69	136	-8
Yealimi Noh	69-67	136	-8

DP World Tour- Danish Golf Championship
At Great Northern; Kerteminde; Purse: $2.8 million; Yardage: 7,314; Par: 72
Second Round

Cameron Adam,	70-63	133	-11
Antoine Rozner,	69-64	133	-11
Ewen Ferguson,	69-65	134	-10
Matthew Jordan,	68-67	135	-9
Romain Langasque,	69-66	135	-9
Julian Perico,	69-66	135	-9
Brandon Stone,	66-69	135	-9
Caleb Surratt,	69-66	135	-9
Bubba Watson,	68-68	136	-8
Yanhan Zhou,	69-67	136	-8
Filippo Celli,	67-70	137	-7
Todd Clements,	69-68	137	-7
Rasmus Højgaard,	70-67	137	-7
Freddy Schott,	67-70	137	-7

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	4	40	35	14
Inter Miami CF	11	2	5	38	45	32
New England	9	6	3	30	28	23
Chicago	9	6	2	29	32	23
NYCFC	7	6	5	26	31	24
Cincinnati	7	6	5	26	45	44
Charlotte FC	7	7	4	25	29	27
Red Bulls	7	7	4	25	29	39
D.C. United	5	5	8	23	26	29
Orlando City	6	10	2	20	30	47
Columbus	5	8	5	20	26	28
Toronto FC	3	7	8	17	24	32
Philadelphia	4	10	4	16	25	33
CF Montréal	4	10	4	16	24	35
Atlanta	3	12	3	12	19	33

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	4	34	38	17
Los Angeles FC	10	5	4	34	35	19
San Jose	10	5	3	33	37	24
Houston	10	6	2	32	27	24
Real Salt Lake	8	6	3	27	29	25
FC Dallas	7	5	6	27	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	5	26	24	24
Portland	7	8	3	24	33	33
Seattle FC	7	7	3	24	20	22
Minn. United	6	6	6	24	20	25
Colorado	7	10	1	22	27	25
LA Galaxy	5	7	7	22	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	6	21	32	29
Austin FC	4	9	5	17	22	36
Sporting K.C.	4	12	2	14	18	46

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday
Red Bulls at Atlanta, 7:30pm
Columbus at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm
D.C. United at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Orlando City, 7:30pm
New England at Toronto FC, 7:30pm
LA Galaxy at Houston, 8:30pm
Miami at Nashville, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Colorado, 9:30pm
Minnesota at Salt Lake, 9:30pm
San Diego FC at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
St Louis City at San Jose, 10:30pm

Sunday
Philadelphia at **NYCFC**, 6pm
Portland at Chicago, 6pm
FC Dallas at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

Wednesday, August 19
NYCFC at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Nashville at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
CF Montréal at Columbus, 7:30pm
New England at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Chicago at Orlando City, 7:30pm
Miami at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Charlotte FC at Toronto FC, 7:30pm
St Louis City at Sporting K.C., 8pm
Atlanta at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Colorado, 9:30pm
FC Dallas at Salt Lake, 9:30pm
Austin FC at Seattle FC, 9:30pm
San Jose at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
San Diego FC at Portland, 10:30pm
Houston at Vancouver, 10:30pm

Friday's Crossword Answers

P	I	G	■	P	B	S	■	S	E	C
A	D	A	■	E	R	A	■	E	L	L
T	A	M	■	P	O	L	A	N	C	O
C	H	E	A	P	■	E	D	G	I	N
H	O	L	M	E	S	■	S	A	D	E
■	■	■	■	R	A	M	■	■	■	■
S	O	T	O	■	L	I	N	D	O	R
U	R	I	A	H	■	N	A	R	C	O
G	A	R	R	E	T	T	■	E	H	L
A	T	E	■	A	P	E	■	A	O	L
R	E	D	■	T	A	R	■	M	A	E

NFL Exhibition

Week 1- Friday
Tampa Bay 24, **Jets** 16
Denver 27, Atlanta 7
Washington 20, Miami 7

Saturday
Minnesota at **Giants**, 1pm
Carolina at Buffalo, 1pm
Cleveland at Chicago, 1pm
Jacksonville at New Orleans, 4pm
L.A. Rams at Kansas City, 4pm
Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7pm
Dallas at Seattle, 8pm

Week 2- Thursday
Las Vegas at Houston, 8pm
San Francisco at L.A. Chargers, 10pm

Friday, Aug. 21
Jets at Pittsburgh, 7pm
Carolina at Jacksonville, 7:30pm
Green Bay at Denver, 9pm

Saturday, Aug. 22
Giants at Miami, 4pm
Washington at Detroit, 12pm
Atlanta at Indianapolis, 1pm
Baltimore at Minnesota, 1pm
Buffalo at Cleveland, 1pm
New Orleans at L.A. Rams, 4pm
Chicago at Cincinnati, 7pm
Philadelphia at New England, 7pm
Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 7:30pm
Dallas at Arizona, 10pm

Sunday, Aug. 23
Seattle at Tennessee, 8pm

NFL Exhibition
Buccaneers 24, Jets 16

Tampa Bay	**0**	**10**	**7**	**7**	**— 24**
Jets	**10**	**3**	**0**	**3**	**— 16**

First Quarter
Nyj: FG York 27, 7:08.
Nyj: Allen 31 run (Sanders kick), 2:07.

Second Quarter
Tb: FG McLaughlin 23, 9:55.
Tb: Garnes 47 interception return (McLaughlin kick), 8:31.
Nyj: FG York 38, :00.

Third Quarter
Tb: J.Williams 12 run (Potter kick), 5:24.

Fourth Quarter
Nyj: FG Sanders 47, 9:48.
Tb: Daniels 1 run (Potter kick), 3:24.

	TB	NYJ
First downs	17	15
Total Net Yards	245	284
Rushes-yards	25-69	21-91
Passing	176	193
Punt Returns	1-0	4-49
Kickoff Returns	3-67	3-86
Interceptions Ret.	2-49	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	22-35-0	20-32-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-7	4-26
Punts	6-45.333	3-48.333
Fumbles-Lost	3-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	6-37	6-42
Time of Possession	31:46	28:14

Individual Statistics

Rushing: Tampa Bay, J.Williams 8-27, Calloway 8-13, Tucker 4-12, Daniels 3-9, Bazelak 1-8, Houston 1-0. Jets, Allen 4-44, Hall 4-16, Scott 3-13, Cook 1-8, Nwangwu 6-6, Trayanum 3-4.

Passing: Tampa Bay, Daniels 10-15-0-111, Bazelak 12-20-0-72. Jets, Cook 9-15-0-108, Klubnik 5-7-0-56, Zappe 6-10-2-55.

Receiving: Tampa Bay, Patterson 5-24, Greene 4-54, Sharp 4-24, Houston 2-23, Hurst 2-19, Tucker 2-11, Culp 1-14, Rivers 1-12, J.Williams 1-2. Jets, Pritchett 3-24, Camper 2-37, G.Wilson 2-32, O.Cooper 2-31, Skinner 2-31, Taylor 2-19, Trayanum 2-12, Curtis 1-10, Scott 1-9, McClain 1-8, Nwangwu 1-4, Woods 1-2.

Soccer

Coppa Italia
Parma 2, Catania 0
Cagliari 1, Arezzo 0
Monza 3, US Avellino 0
Fiorentina 4, Benevento 1

Club Friendly
Atletico Madrid 2, Marseille 1
Coventry City 2, AS Monaco 0
Atlanta 1, Athletic Club 0

English League Championship
Wolverhampton Wanderers 2, Blackburn Rovers 2

New closer Senga shows how funky, strong is his fight

By DAN MARTIN
and MARK W. SANCHEZ

METS NOTES

Almost nothing has gone as planned for the Mets this season, which is how they ended up with Kodai Senga entering Friday's game in the top of the ninth, trying to close out a win over Washington as Michael Jackson's "Beat It" blared over the Citi Field sound system.

The right-hander, whose first three short-inning relief appearances came on the road, picked up the save with a scoreless inning in a 4-1 victory.

It was Senga's fourth straight scoreless appearance as well as his second save.

With Devin Williams on the injured list due to a strained shoulder, interim manager Andy Green said Senga would get plenty of work out of the bullpen down the stretch.

"He's done a good job," Green said. "He's attacked hitters [and] filled up the strike zone. He'll continue to pitch in leverage situations."

That could be in the eighth inning as well, depending on matchups, according to Green.

And Senga is doing his best to embrace the new role, which came after he repeatedly flopped as a starter following his standout rookie season.

"It's easier to prepare when you know you're going in later in the game," Senga said through an interpreter. "You're always physically and mentally prepared."

One part of working as a reliever Senga has yet to do is throw on back-to-back days.

"I think I'm well prepared for it," Senga said.

No one was prepared for the song choice, though, as the stadium darkened and the 1980s hit came on, with Senga running in from the bullpen with a three-run lead.

Senga said he chose it because he "heard it for the first time in a while and thought 'That's a great song.' "

Green approved of the choice and also was impressed again by Senga's approach.

"I don't see an ounce of fear," Green said. "I see somebody attack the situation. That's what you're looking for."

None of this is what the Mets had in mind when he signed a five-year, $75 million deal prior to the 2023 season.

At this point, they'll take what they can get from the 33-year-old, and there is belief that his four-seam fastball/forkball mix may play out of the bullpen.

Green noted that Senga's final pitch of the game, a forkball that Abimelec Ortiz swung over, was perfect.

Senga retired the first two batters he faced in the ninth before Jacob Young singled to right. He then hit CJ Abrams with a pitch to bring up the potential tying run in Ortiz before ending it.

The 33-year old had a 10.08 ERA after his last start as a member of the rotation on June 23, so nearly anything would be an improvement.

Considering his early success, it's hardly a surprise to see Senga not shying away from his new job.

He acknowledged the adrenaline is "different" coming out of the pen and with another year and $15 million on his deal, Senga may have to get accustomed to it.

➤ **Mark Vientos** (right hand fracture) is hitting, fielding and did agility drills on the field, but the Mets are not sure when he will start a rehab assignment. ... **Francisco Lindor** continued his recent hot hitting with a homer that tied the game in the sixth, which helped make up for a third-inning error that led to an unearned run.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	74	47	.612	—	—	9-1	L-1	41-19	33-28
Yankees	68	54	.557	6½	+8	5-5	L-2	31-27	37-27
Boston	65	57	.533	9½	+5	4-6	L-1	29-31	36-26
Toronto	60	64	.484	15½	1	7-3	W-1	32-32	28-32
Baltimore	59	63	.484	15½	1	5-5	W-1	32-30	27-33

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	63	58	.521	—	—	4-6	W-1	37-24	26-34
Detroit	60	62	.492	3½	—	6-4	L-1	32-29	28-33
Minnesota	60	63	.488	4	½	4-6	L-1	32-29	28-34
Cleveland	59	64	.480	5	1½	2-8	L-2	28-32	31-32
Kansas City	50	73	.407	14	10½	4-6	W-1	29-30	21-43

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	63	60	.512	—	—	5-5	W-2	31-29	32-31
Texas	60	63	.488	3	½	5-5	L-4	32-27	28-36
Seattle	57	66	.463	6	3½	2-8	L-1	33-29	24-37
Athletics	48	74	.393	14½	12	3-7	W-1	22-39	26-35
Los Angeles	48	75	.390	15	12½	5-5	L-1	28-35	20-40

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Toronto 3, **Yankees** 1
White Sox 9, Detroit 5
Pittsburgh 8, Boston 4
San Diego 7, Cleveland 5
Baltimore 6, Tampa Bay 5
Houston 10, Seattle 7, 10 inn.
Kansas City 7, L.A. Angels 6
Athletics 8, Texas 3

Saturday

Yankees at Toronto, 3:07
White Sox at Detroit, 1:10
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 6:10
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 7:10
San Diego at Cleveland, 7:10
Seattle at Houston, 7:10
Boston at Pittsburgh, 7:15
Kansas City at L.A. Angels, 9:38
Texas at Athletics, 9:40

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	73	49	.598	—	—	6-4	L-1	41-22	32-27
Philadelphia	65	58	.528	8½	—	5-5	W-1	32-30	33-28
Miami	62	61	.504	11½	3	4-6	L-2	38-25	24-36
Washington	60	64	.484	14	5½	5-5	L-1	27-36	33-28
Mets	54	69	.439	19½	11	7-3	W-1	26-34	28-35

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	75	48	.610	—	—	5-5	L-1	41-22	34-26
Chicago	72	51	.585	3	+7	8-2	W-1	36-24	36-27
St. Louis	61	61	.500	13½	3½	6-4	L-1	32-34	29-27
Cincinnati	59	62	.488	15	5	6-4	W-2	30-31	29-31
Pittsburgh	60	64	.484	15½	5½	3-7	W-2	31-30	29-34

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	74	49	.602	—	—	5-5	W-1	37-24	37-25
San Diego	66	57	.537	8	+1	8-2	W-6	37-26	29-31
Arizona	65	58	.528	9	—	5-5	W-1	36-27	29-31
San Francisco	50	72	.410	23½	14½	3-7	L-2	28-32	22-40
Colorado	49	73	.402	24½	15½	4-6	W-3	27-32	22-41

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Mets 4, Washington 1
Cubs 3, St. Louis 0
Cincinnati 1, Miami 0
Pittsburgh 8, Boston 4
Arizona 2, Atlanta 0
San Diego 7, Cleveland 5
Colorado 5, San Francisco 2
L.A. Dodgers 3, Milwaukee 1

Saturday

Washington at **Mets**, 4:10
St. Louis at Cubs, 2:20
Colorado at San Francisco, 4:05
Miami at Cincinnati, 6:40
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 7:10
San Diego at Cleveland, 7:10
Arizona at Atlanta, 7:15
Boston at Pittsburgh, 7:15
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 7:15

POST SU DOKU **Puzzles on Page 28**

9	5	8	3	7	4	1	6	2
2	4	7	5	6	1	3	8	9
1	6	3	8	9	2	5	7	4
5	7	2	6	3	9	8	4	1
6	3	4	2	1	8	7	9	5
8	1	9	7	4	5	6	2	3
3	2	1	9	8	6	4	5	7
4	9	6	1	5	7	2	3	8
7	8	5	4	2	3	9	1	6

Solution to Very Easy #7,371

8	5	2	7	9	4	6	3	1
7	3	4	5	1	6	2	9	8
1	9	6	8	3	2	5	4	7
6	4	3	1	5	8	7	2	9
5	8	1	2	7	9	3	6	4
2	7	9	4	6	3	1	8	5
9	1	8	6	2	7	4	5	3
3	6	7	9	4	5	8	1	2
4	2	5	3	8	1	9	7	6

Solution to Difficult #7,161

Blue Jays 3, Yankees 1

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	4	1	2	1	0	1	.225
Rice dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Jones rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.214
García 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Chisholm 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.216
Ramos lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.247
McMahon 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.219
Wells c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.178
Lombard ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Totals	**31**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**5**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bateman cf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.290
Lukes rf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.265
Guerrero 1b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.263
McAdoo 1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.189
Springer dh	4	1	0	0	0	2	.231
Kirk c	3	1	2	2	1	0	.269
Giménez ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.238
Okamoto 3b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.227
J.Sánchez lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.263
Straw lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.224
Clement 2b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.280
Totals	**31**	**3**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**8**	

Yankees	**000 001 000 —**	**1**	**5**	**2**
Toronto	**000 002 01x —**	**3**	**8**	**0**

E: McMahon (7), García (5). **LOB:** New York 4, Toronto 6. **2B:** Jones (7), Giménez (19), Kirk (5). **HR:** Grisham (16), off Bieber; Kirk (5), off Hanner. **RBIs:** Grisham (51), Kirk 2 (21). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 1 (Ramos); Toronto 4 (Giménez, J.Sánchez 2, Lukes). **RISP:** New York 0 for 3; Toronto 1 for 6.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cole, L, 6-6	6.0	5	2	1	2	5	87	3.22
Blackburn	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	22	1.87
Hanner	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	12	9.00

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bieber, W, 4-2	6.0	4	1	1	1	5	84	4.99
Rogers, H, 25	1.1	1	0	0	0	0	20	1.60
Fluharty, H, 13	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	6	3.88
Varland, S, 27-28	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1.28

T: 2:25. **A:** 42,816 (39,150).

Reds 1, Marlins 0

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marsee cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.204
Edwards 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.282
Lopez ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.312
Conine dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.274
Hernández lf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.226
Sanoja 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Caissie rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.227
Jiménez ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.204
Mack c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.231
Ruiz ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.258
Pauley 1b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.194
Ramírez ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Totals	**30**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**11**	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	.266
Stewart 3b-1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.259
Bleday lf	3	0	1	0	1	0	.219
Stephenson c	4	1	1	0	0	0	.252
Suárez dh	4	0	1	1	0	1	.206
Toglia 1b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.286
Hayes 3b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.145
Myers cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Marte rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.196
McLain 2b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.190
Totals	**30**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**4**	**3**	

Miami	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**4**	**0**
Cincinnati	**000 001 00x —**	**1**	**6**	**0**

LOB: Miami 3, Cincinnati 9. **2B:** Toglia (1), Suárez (15). **RBIs:** Suárez (49). **SB:** Lopez (24). **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 1 (Sanoja); Cincinnati 5 (Bleday, Myers 4). **RISP:** Miami 0 for 2; Cincinnati 1 for 7.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Alcantara, L, 13-7	7.0	3	1	1	4	2	103	3.43
Ekness	1.0	3	0	0	0	1	23	1.80

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burns, W, 14-2	7.0	4	0	0	0	8	93	2.47
Burke, H, 14	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	2.72
Pagán, S, 15-18	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	11	3.95

T: 2:19. **A:** 21,232 (43,891).

Mets 4, Nationals 1

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Abrams ss	2	1	0	0	2	1	.283
Ortiz 1b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.286
House dh	3	0	2	1	0	1	.242
Lile rf-lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.249
Ruiz c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.270
Tena lf	2	0	0	0	1	2	.237
Crews rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.217
Nuñez 2b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.228
Vivas 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.243
Jac.Young cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Totals	**32**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**4**	**9**	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.255
Lindor ss	3	1	1	1	1	0	.240
Bichette 3b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.262
Robert cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.216
Benge rf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.274
F.Alvarez dh	3	0	0	0	1	3	.248
Semien 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.211
Jar.Young 1b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.262
Torrens c	2	1	1	0	1	0	.235
Totals	**32**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**3**	**8**	

Washington	**001 000 000 —**	**1**	**5**	**0**
Mets	**000 002 20x —**	**4**	**7**	**1**

E: Lindor (9). **LOB:** Washington 10, New York 7. **2B:** Semien (10). **HR:** Lindor (12), off A.Alvarez; Jar.Young (8), off Bird. **RBIs:** House (28), Lindor (31), Benge (48), Jar.Young (26), Bichette (62). **SB:** Abrams (24). **Runners left in scoring position:** Washington 4 (Ortiz, Ruiz 3); New York 3 (Robert, F.Alvarez, Jar.Young). **RISP:** Washington 1 for 8; New York 2 for 5.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
A.Alvarez, L, 2-4	5.2	2	2	2	1	4	73	3.72
Bird	1.0	3	2	2	2	1	26	6.15
Kranick	1.1	2	0	0	0	3	16	7.59

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Stock	4.1	3	1	0	3	5	84	6.57
Lavender	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.00
Pintaro, W, 1-0	2.0	1	0	0	1	2	24	4.15
Duarte, H, 2	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	17	0.98
Senga, S, 2-2	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	7.95

T: 2:31. **A:** 30,660 (42,136).

Pirates 8, Red Sox 4

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Sogard 2b	4	0	2	2	0	0	.258
Yoshida dh	5	0	2	1	0	2	.272
Rutschman c	5	0	0	0	0	3	.244
Contreras 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.281
Abreu rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.254
Durbin 3b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.251
Duran lf	3	2	1	0	1	2	.202
Monasterio ss	3	0	1	1	1	0	.270
White cf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.236
Totals	**34**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**4**	**10**	

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Gonzales 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.307
Gonzalez pr-ss	1	1	1	0	0	0	.238
Simon dh	3	1	1	0	0	1	.333
Reynolds lf-rf	4	3	2	0	0	1	.264
Valdez rf	4	1	1	2	0	2	.250
Cook pr-cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.200
Lowe 2b	4	1	1	3	0	2	.250
Flores 1b	4	1	3	2	0	0	.294
Mangum cf-lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.297
Triolo ss-3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.247
Davis c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.171
Totals	**32**	**8**	**9**	**7**	**1**	**8**	

Boston	**000 020 101 —**	**4**	**9**	**1**
Pittsburgh	**010 330 10x —**	**8**	**9**	**1**

E: Durbin (8), Chandler (3). **LOB:** Boston 8, Pittsburgh 3. **2B:** Abreu (25), Reynolds (29), Valdez (10), Gonzalez (7). **HR:** Flores (4), off Bennett; Lowe (26), off Morán. **RBIs:** Monasterio (33), Sogard 2 (5), Yoshida (28), Flores 2 (10), Valdez 2 (41), Lowe 3 (77). **SB:** Reynolds (9), Gonzalez (2). **SF:** Sogard. **S:** Simon. **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 3 (Yoshida, Rutschman 2); Pittsburgh 2 (Davis, Lowe). **RISP:** Boston 3 for 9; Pittsburgh 3 for 8.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bennett, L, 7-6	4.0	5	4	4	1	6	82	3.46
Morán	1.0	2	3	3	0	2	27	3.00
Gamboa	3.0	2	1	0	0	0	36	1.59

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Chandler, W, 6-8	5.0	4	2	2	2	5	87	4.23
Soto	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	14	3.73
Doval	1.0	2	1	1	1	1	25	4.34
Weaver	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	1.76
Yates	0.2	3	1	1	0	1	17	3.82
Montgomery, S, 4-6	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	3.61

T: 2:49. **A:** 32,036 (38,753).

Diamondbacks 2, Braves 0

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Perdomo ss	5	1	4	0	0	0	.252
Carroll rf	4	0	2	0	1	1	.246
Moreno c	5	0	1	1	0	2	.304
Marte 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.251
Barrosa cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.202
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.240
Vargas 1b-2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.267
Tawa cf-1b	3	1	1	1	0	2	.233
Locklear dh	2	0	0	0	0	1	.278
Nootbaar ph-dh	2	0	1	0	0	1	.222
Waldschmidt lf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Totals	**35**	**2**	**10**	**2**	**1**	**11**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Baldwin c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.274
Acuña dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.240
Olson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.262
Harris cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.290
Albies 2b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Dubón lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Yastrzemski rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Riley 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.223
Jarvis ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Smith ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.264
Kim ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.067
Totals	**30**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**11**	

Arizona	**100 000 001 —**	**2**	**10**	**0**
Atlanta	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**3**	**0**

LOB: Arizona 10, Atlanta 3. **2B:** Carroll (25), Perdomo (16), Moreno (24). **HR:** Tawa (7), off Kinley. **RBIs:** Moreno (54), Tawa (27). **SB:** Vargas (3). **S:** Tawa, Waldschmidt. **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 7 (Vargas 2, Moreno 2, Arenado 2, Waldschmidt); Atlanta 0. **RISP:** Arizona 0 for 14; Atlanta 0 for 0.

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pfaadt, W, 7-1	7.0	2	0	0	0	7	87	3.11
Morillo, H, 16	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	19	2.37
Garcia, S, 4-4	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	2.06

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sale, L, 12-8	6.0	5	1	1	0	9	108	2.16
Fuentes	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	17	2.39
Dodd	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	24	2.11
Kinley	1.0	2	1	1	1	1	14	4.07

T: 2:32. **A:** 35,106 (41,149).

Padres 7, Guardians 5

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	4	1	1	1	1	0	.280
Cronenworth 2b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.222
Machado 3b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.215
France 1b	4	1	2	0	1	1	.298
Merrill cf	3	2	0	0	1	1	.245
Campusano c	5	0	2	3	0	1	.317
Fermin c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.194
Sheets dh	5	0	1	0	0	1	.211
Song pr-dh	0	0	0	0	0	0	.207
Bogaerts ss	1	1	1	3	2	0	.223
Rengifo lf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.241
Bowen lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.147
Totals	**36**	**7**	**12**	**7**	**5**	**8**	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan dh	3	1	1	0	2	0	.266
DeLauter rf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.284
Martínez lf-cf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.240
Lowe 1b	4	2	3	2	0	0	.269
Bazzana 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Genao 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.323
Halpin cf	3	0	1	1	0	1	.222
Adell ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Bailey c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.185
Rocchio ss	4	1	2	1	0	0	.254
Totals	**37**	**5**	**10**	**4**	**2**	**8**	

San Diego	**000 230 200 —**	**7**	**12**	**2**
Cleveland	**012 001 010 —**	**5**	**10**	**0**

E: Bogaerts (8), France (3). **LOB:** San Diego 9, Cleveland 7. **2B:** Campusano 2 (11), France (16), Halpin (4), Lowe (19), Rocchio (18). **HR:** Bogaerts (11), off Williams; Tatis (13), off Williams; Lowe (14), off King; Rocchio (10), off King. **RBIs:** Bogaerts 3 (45), Tatis (56), Campusano 3 (23), Lowe 2 (45), Rocchio (51), Halpin (8). **SB:** Merrill (24). **SF:** Bogaerts. **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 5 (Merrill, Rengifo 3, Tatis); Cleveland 4 (Bazzana, Martínez, Bailey 2). **RISP:** San Diego 3 for 11; Cleveland 2 for 12.

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
King, W, 8-8	6.0	8	4	3	1	4	83	3.41
Matsui, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	18	2.30
Estrada, H, 11	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	18	3.49
Rodriguez, S, 1-5	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	18	2.09

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Williams, L, 11-7	4.1	7	5	5	4	5	91	3.74
Yoho	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	14	4.97
Aleman	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	14	3.38
Holderman	0.2	2	2	2	0	0	14	2.42
Herrin	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	3.51
Festa	1.1	2	0	0	0	1	15	4.11

T: 2:49. **A:** 35,726 (34,788).

White Sox 9, Tigers 5

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci lf	2	1	0	0	0	1	.278
Doyle ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Murakami 1b	3	2	1	1	1	1	.235
Vargas 3b	5	3	4	3	0	0	.239
Benintendi dh	4	1	1	0	1	1	.245
B.Montgomery rf	5	0	3	3	0	0	.237
C.Montgomery ss	5	0	0	0	0	2	.209
Meidroth 2b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.280
Peters cf-lf	5	1	3	2	0	0	.268
Romo c	4	0	0	0	1	0	.132
Totals	**40**	**9**	**14**	**9**	**3**	**6**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Torres 2b	4	0	2	1	1	0	.260
Dingler c	5	0	0	0	0	0	.261
McGonigle ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.285
Valencia dh	4	0	2	1	0	1	.396
Keith 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.265
Torkelson 1b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.232
McKinstry rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.218
Malgeri lf	4	2	2	3	0	1	.283
Clark cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.264
Totals	**37**	**5**	**10**	**5**	**1**	**7**	

Chicago	**100 502 010 —**	**9**	**14**	**0**
Detroit	**021 000 200 —**	**5**	**10**	**0**

LOB: Chicago 9, Detroit 6. **2B:** Vargas (27), Meidroth (24), Valencia (6), Keith (15). **3B:** B.Montgomery (3), Clark (2). **HR:** Peters (7), off Jobe; Murakami (27), off Jobe; Vargas (26), off De Jesús; Vargas (27), off Madden; Malgeri (2), off Urquidy; Malgeri (3), off Brazobán. **RBIs:** B.Montgomery 3 (27), Peters 2 (42), Murakami (55), Vargas 3 (71), Malgeri 3 (10), Valencia (15), Torres (32). **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 5 (Romo, C.Montgomery 4); Detroit 2 (Keith, McKinstry). **RISP:** Chicago 2 for 11; Detroit 0 for 4.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Newcomb	1.1	0	0	0	1	2	25	2.60
Urquidy, W, 1-1	3.2	5	3	3	0	3	52	8.10
Brazobán	1.1	3	2	2	0	0	13	2.75
Taylor, H, 9	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	18	2.14
Hudson	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	10	3.20

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jobe, L, 1-1	3.2	9	6	6	1	4	74	6.23
Waguespack	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	16	1.44
De Jesús	2.1	3	2	2	2	1	44	3.95
Madden	1.2	2	1	1	0	1	28	2.62

T: 2:40. **A:** 39,638 (41,083).

Cubs 3, Cardinals 0

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Herrera c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.249
Burleson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.285
Walker rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.282
Church cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.236
Winn ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.241
Torres dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.226
Fermín lf	2	0	1	0	1	1	.242
Prieto 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.032
Totals	**30**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**2**	**6**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.279
Suzuki dh	4	1	2	3	0	0	.273
Bregman 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.253
Busch 1b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.246
Hoerner 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.262
Kelly c	3	0	1	0	0	2	.261
Happ lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.215
Taylor rf	2	1	0	0	1	0	.233
Swanson ss	3	1	1	0	0	1	.216
Totals	**29**	**3**	**6**	**3**	**3**	**6**	

St. Louis	**000 000 000 —**	**0**	**3**	**0**
Chicago	**000 003 00x —**	**3**	**6**	**0**

LOB: St. Louis 5, Chicago 5. **2B:** Suzuki (22). **HR:** Suzuki (21), off Soriano. **RBIs:** Suzuki 3 (73). **SB:** Hoerner (20), Taylor (1), Swanson (17). **Runners left in scoring position:** St. Louis 2 (Church, Wetherholt); Chicago 3 (Swanson, Hoerner, Happ). **RISP:** St. Louis 0 for 3; Chicago 2 for 9.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Liberatore, L, 5-10	5.1	2	2	2	1	6	95	5.07
Soriano	0.2	2	1	1	1	0	17	3.71
Strzelecki	2.0	2	0	0	1	0	36	4.15

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Holmes, W, 5-5	6.2	1	0	0	1	3	80	2.56
Rolison, H, 5	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	11	2.27
Zeferjahn, H, 12	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	27	3.86
Webb, S, 9-13	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	13	2.33

T: 2:34. **A:** 40,374 (41,363).

Astros 10, Mariners 7, 10 inn.

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Young 2b	6	0	0	0	0	2	.258
Arozarena lf	4	1	2	0	0	2	.278
Canzone rf	4	1	2	1	1	1	.255
Rodríguez dh	4	1	1	0	1	2	.257
Naylor 1b	4	1	2	1	0	0	.266
Donovan 3b	5	1	1	1	0	0	.248
Raleigh c	2	0	0	0	2	1	.158
Wilson pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.204
Pereda c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Robles cf	5	1	3	2	0	1	.256
Rodden ss	4	0	1	2	0	2	.250
Totals	**39**	**7**	**12**	**7**	**4**	**11**	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	5	2	1	1	0	1	.289
Alvarez dh	4	1	2	1	1	0	.323
Paredes 3b	5	0	2	3	0	0	.255
Allen pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.255
Trammell lf	5	0	0	0	0	3	.228
Altuve 2b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.242
Varsho cf	4	1	1	1	1	1	.233
Walker 1b	5	2	2	3	0	0	.238
Smith rf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.225
Vázquez c	2	1	1	0	1	0	.214
Wade ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.218
Diaz c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Totals	**40**	**10**	**12**	**10**	**3**	**7**	

Seattle	**200 001 020 2 —**	**7**	**12**	**0**
Houston	**140 000 000 5 —**	**10**	**12**	**0**

Two outs when winning run scored. **LOB:** Seattle 10, Houston 5. **2B:** Arozarena (25), Rodríguez (17), Naylor (18), Rodden (1). **3B:** Robles (1), Smith (3). **HR:** Alvarez (36), off Kirby; Walker (23), off Muñoz. **RBIs:** Canzone (51), Naylor (44), Robles 2 (7), Donovan (9), Rodden 2 (2), Alvarez (88), Smith (45), Peña (39), Paredes 3 (65), Varsho (29), Walker 3 (70). **SB:** Altuve 2 (4), Rodríguez (16). **SF:** Naylor, Rodden. **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 4 (Donovan 2, Young 2); Houston 2 (Trammell, Walker). **RISP:** Seattle 4 for 12; Houston 5 for 8.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kirby	4.2	8	5	5	3	2	99	3.89
Rucker	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	16	4.91
Speier	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.84
Bazardo	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	20	3.11
Muñoz, L, 5-5, BS, 21-28	0.2	4	5	4	0	1	23	4.47

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lambert	5.0	4	2	2	2	6	96	3.11
Sousa, H, 5	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	16	3.46
Okert, H, 17	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	7	2.08
Abreu, BS, 7-8	1.0	2	2	2	2	0	29	4.50
Hader	1.0	2	0	0	0	2	23	0.93
De Los Santos, W, 2-3	1.0	1	2	1	0	0	19	4.24

T: 3:29. **A:** 30,582 (41,000).

Royals 7, Angels 6

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	4	1	0	0	1	1	.219
Witt ss	3	2	1	0	2	1	.285
Caglianone 1b	4	2	3	5	0	0	.273
Loftin 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.240
Massey 2b	4	1	3	2	0	1	.264
Collins lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Rave rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Rojas dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.224
Isbel cf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.229
Totals	**34**	**7**	**10**	**7**	**3**	**10**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Meckler lf	5	1	1	0	0	3	.300
Peraza pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.229
Trout cf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.244
Schanuel 1b	4	1	2	4	0	0	.273
Neto ss	3	0	1	1	1	0	.225
Ballesteros dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Grissom 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.246
Lowe rf	4	1	1	1	0	1	.206
Guzman 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.241
Heineman c	2	2	2	0	0	0	.189
Siri ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.267
Totals	**36**	**6**	**10**	**6**	**1**	**9**	

Kansas City	**012 020 200 —**	**7**	**10**	**0**
Los Angeles	**004 011 000 —**	**6**	**10**	**1**

E: Grissom (5), Neto (16). **LOB:** Kansas City 4, Los Angeles 5. **2B:** Collins (20), Guzman (5), Schanuel (22), Trout (17). **HR:** Massey (10), off Rodriguez; Caglianone (22), off Peralta; Lowe (9), off Lange. **RBIs:** Massey 2 (41), Caglianone 5 (58), Schanuel 4 (46), Neto (53), Lowe (25). **CS:** Loftin (1). **RISP:** Kansas City 2 for 7; Los Angeles 4 for 6.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lugo	4.2	7	5	5	0	4	86	4.59
Cuas	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	9	1.64
Lange, W, 2-7	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	14	6.23
Schreiber, H, 11	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	17	3.68
Pearson, H, 1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	2.60
Cruz, S, 4-5	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	12	4.17

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez	4.0	3	3	3	2	5	89	7.17
Peralta	2.0	4	2	2	1	3	39	7.94
Saucedo, L, 0-1, BS, 0-2	0.1	2	2	2	0	0	9	6.75
Murphy	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	24	2.57
Watson	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	4.32

T: 2:47. **A:** 23,139 (45,517).

Athletics 8, Rangers 3

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Langford lf	4	0	0	0	1	0	.249
Nimmo rf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Seager ss	2	1	0	0	2	1	.198
Duran 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.268
Burger 1b	3	1	1	3	1	1	.234
Foscue dh	2	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Pederson ph-dh	1	0	0	0	1	1	.249
Freeman 2b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.211
N.Lopez ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Díaz c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Carter cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.194
Totals	**32**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**6**	**5**	

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McNeil 1b	5	1	4	3	0	0	.263
Wilson ss	0	1	0	0	0	0	.269
Williams ph-ss	3	0	1	0	1	1	.266
Soderstrom lf	4	1	1	0	1	2	.245
Gelof 3b-2b	2	1	0	0	3	1	.278
Butler rf	5	1	1	1	0	1	.207
Cortes dh	2	0	1	3	1	0	.260
Muncy ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.212
Walton 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.276
White ph-3b	1	1	1	0	0	0	.253
Heim c	3	1	0	0	1	0	.217
Bolte cf	4	1	0	0	0	1	.254
Totals	**33**	**8**	**9**	**7**	**7**	**8**	

Texas	**000 003 000 —**	**3**	**4**	**1**
Athletics	**300 001 13x —**	**8**	**9**	**2**

E: Díaz (4), Walton (3), White (3). **LOB:** Texas 8, Athletics 9. **2B:** Duran (23), Cortes (15), McNeil 2 (15), Williams (11). **HR:** Burger (20), off Jump; McNeil (5), off Silseth; Butler (10), off Ahlstrom. **RBIs:** Burger 3 (71), Cortes 3 (35), McNeil 3 (39), Butler (34). **SB:** Langford (9). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 4 (N.Lopez, Foscue 2, Duran); Athletics 3 (Soderstrom, Walton 2). **RISP:** Texas 1 for 5; Athletics 3 for 12.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rocker	5.0	4	3	3	5	3	94	4.50
Silseth, L, 3-3	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	15	2.91
Ahlstrom	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	16	4.94
Alexander	0.1	3	3	2	2	1	23	3.42
Gonzales	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.35

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Jump	5.1	3	3	3	4	1	101	4.50
Medina, W, 3-3	1.1	0	0	0	1	2	29	3.67
Rom, H, 1	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	8	2.45
Alvarado, H, 6	0.2	0	0	0	1	1	14	4.74
Harris	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	27	3.57

T: 3:01. **A:** 8,082 (14,014).

Dodgers 3, Brewers 1

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mitchell cf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.249
Sánchez ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Lockridge cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.280
Chourio lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.274
Bauers 1b	3	0	1	0	1	2	.269
Vaughn 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.296
Bae pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.500
Yelich dh	3	0	0	0	1	2	.229
Contreras c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.255
Lara rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.234
Hamilton 2b	3	0	1	0	1	1	.233
Ortiz ss	3	0	1	1	0	0	.247
Totals	**30**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**4**	**12**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.290
Pages cf	4	2	3	1	0	0	.272
T.Hernández lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.249
Betts ss	4	0	1	1	0	1	.239
Edman 2b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.276
Tucker rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.234
Muncy 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.250
E.Hernández 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Feduccia c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Totals	**32**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**2**	**10**	

Milwaukee	**000 010 000 —**	**1**	**5**	**0**
Los Angeles	**100 011 00x —**	**3**	**8**	**1**

E: Muncy (11). **LOB:** Milwaukee 8, Los Angeles 7. **2B:** Ortiz (11), Lara (6), Muncy (18). **HR:** Pages (20), off Gasser; Edman (4), off Gasser. **RBIs:** Ortiz (31), Betts (40), Pages (77), Edman (23). **SB:** Pages (12), Bae (1). **CS:** Bauers (4). **SF:** Ortiz. **Runners left in scoring position:** Milwaukee 3 (Chourio, Ortiz 2); Los Angeles 4 (Betts 2, E.Hernández, Tucker). **RISP:** Milwaukee 1 for 6; Los Angeles 1 for 6.

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gasser, L, 3-5	6.1	8	3	3	1	7	102	4.54
Anderson	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	9	3.65
Wilson	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	4.73

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yamamoto, W, 12-7	6.0	4	1	1	2	9	97	2.60
Phillips, H, 3	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	18	5.25
Scott, H, 12	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	19	2.20
Díaz, S, 7-11	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	26	10.66

T: 2:33. **A:** 47,066 (56,000).

Orioles 6, Rays 5

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Alonso 1b	5	0	2	0	0	2	.260
Holliday 2b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.240
Mayo dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.211
O'Neill rf	2	2	1	0	2	0	.219
Henderson ss	4	2	4	2	0	0	.221
Encarnacion-Strand 3b	3	0	1	1	0	1	.258
Taveras lf-cf	4	1	0	0	0	0	.222
Cowser cf	2	1	1	1	0	1	.214
Jackson ph	0	0	0	0	1	0	.232
Pozo c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.250
Narváez c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.179
Beavers ph-lf	2	0	2	2	0	0	.246
Totals	**34**	**6**	**12**	**6**	**3**	**6**	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	5	0	1	0	0	1	.301
Aranda 1b	5	0	1	2	0	1	.284
Mateo pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.240
Simpson lf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.306
Caminero 3b	4	1	0	1	1	1	.276
Hicks c	3	1	1	0	2	1	.285
Mesa rf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.215
Vilade rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.244
Mullins cf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.209
DeLuca ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Palacios 2b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.242
Walls ss	3	1	1	0	1	0	.218
Totals	**36**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**6**	**6**	

Baltimore	**011 000 220 —**	**6**	**12**	**0**
Tampa Bay	**011 000 003 —**	**5**	**9**	**0**

LOB: Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 10. **2B:** Henderson (21), Palacios (10). **HR:** Cowser (10), off Scholtens; Henderson (20), off Roycroft. **RBIs:** Encarnacion-Strand (14), Cowser (31), Beavers 2 (24), Henderson 2 (51), Palacios (36), Mesa (22), Aranda 2 (75), Caminero (78). **SB:** Simpson 2 (35), Caminero (3), Mateo (11). **CS:** Henderson (5). **SF:** Encarnacion-Strand. **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 2 (Taveras, Holliday); Tampa Bay 4 (Caminero, Vilade, Aranda 2). **RISP:** Baltimore 2 for 6; Tampa Bay 3 for 9.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bassitt	5.1	5	2	2	3	3	88	5.11
Walker, W, 1-0	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	7	3.07
Kittredge, H, 8	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	8	3.47
Garcia	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	20	3.55
Cano	0.2	3	3	3	1	1	24	2.61
Sanders, S, 2-2	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	1	6.75

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Matz	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	21	5.37
Scholtens	3.0	4	2	2	2	2	64	3.98
Booser	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	2.00
Wells	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	16	2.43
Cleavinger, L, 4-4	0.1	2	2	2	1	0	10	3.75
Kelly	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	5	1.94
Roycroft	2.0	4	2	2	0	1	36	9.13

T: 3:06. **A:** 18,343 (25,025).

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	13	3	4	43	26	13
Utah Royals FC	11	6	3	36	35	23
Washington	11	5	3	36	29	17
San Diego	10	7	3	33	25	21
Portland	9	6	4	31	32	28
North Carolina	9	6	3	30	32	26
Kansas City	9	8	3	30	31	28
Seattle	8	7	3	27	23	23
Angel City	7	7	3	24	26	19
Denver Summit FC	6	7	6	24	25	25
Orlando	7	10	2	23	23	29
Boston Legacy FC	5	9	5	20	22	28
Houston	5	8	5	20	20	26
Bay FC	5	10	4	19	20	27
Louisville	5	11	2	17	24	35
Chicago	4	14	1	13	9	34

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday
Gotham FC 2, Kansas City 1
Denver Summit FC 1, San Diego 1, tie
Seattle 1, Chicago 0
Utah Royals FC 3, Bay FC 2

Saturday
Boston Legacy FC at Louisville, 6:30pm
Orlando at Portland, 8:45pm

Sunday
Houston at North Carolina, 7pm
Washington at Angel City, 9pm

Wednesday
Seattle at Louisville, 6:30pm
Chicago at Houston, 8pm

Friday, August 21
Utah Royals FC at San Diego, 10pm

Saturday, August 22
Seattle at Kansas City, 6:30pm
Boston Legacy FC at North Carolina, 7:30pm
Denver Summit FC at Portland, 8:45pm

Sunday, August 23
Louisville at Chicago, 2pm
Orlando at Washington, 4pm
Houston at Bay FC, 6pm
Gotham FC at Angel City, 8pm

Rockies 5, Giants 2

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy cf-rf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.296
Moniak lf	4	0	0	1	1	2	.267
Castro 3b	4	0	0	1	0	1	.262
Rumfield 1b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.294
Johnston dh	4	0	1	1	1	1	.282
Norby 2b	2	1	0	0	2	1	.198
Veen rf	3	1	1	2	1	1	.333
Carrigg cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.292
Tovar ss	3	0	1	0	1	1	.208
Sullivan c	4	2	2	0	0	1	.245
Totals	**32**	**5**	**6**	**5**	**7**	**10**	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Cox cf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.267
Devers dh	4	0	1	1	0	1	.245
Eldridge 1b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.246
Bericoto lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.271
Lee rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.290
Basabe 2b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.283
Kennedy 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.037
Knizner c	2	0	0	0	1	0	.000
Koss ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.192
Totals	**31**	**2**	**7**	**2**	**1**	**2**	

Colorado	**000 112 001 —**	**5**	**6**	**1**
San Francisco	**000 100 001 —**	**2**	**7**	**2**

E: Castro (10), Roupp (1), Bericoto (3). **LOB:** Colorado 9, San Francisco 3. **2B:** Sullivan (11), Koss (3), Devers (28). **3B:** Johnston (1), Cox (2). **HR:** Veen (2), off Roupp; Eldridge (13), off Freeland. **RBIs:** Johnston (44), Moniak (54), Veen 2 (4), Castro (50), Eldridge (30), Devers (65). **SB:** Norby (7). **CS:** Basabe (1). **SF:** Castro. **Runners left in scoring position:** Colorado 4 (Johnston 2, Tovar 2); San Francisco 0. **RISP:** Colorado 1 for 6; San Francisco 1 for 4.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Freeland, W, 4-10	8.0	4	1	1	1	2	95	6.27
Bernardino	1.0	3	1	1	0	0	11	2.84

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Roupp, L, 7-12	5.2	5	4	4	3	5	91	4.31
Sanmartin	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	5	9.00
Brubaker	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	3.28
Harris	1.1	1	1	1	3	3	41	21.60
Foley	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	12	5.19

T: 2:28. **A:** 38,258 (41,915).

This Date In Sports

1948 — Babe Didrikson Zaharias wins the U.S. Women's Open golf title over Betty Hicks.

1950 — Ezzard Charles knocks out Freddie Beshore in the 14th round to retain his world heavyweight title.

1965 — Dave Marr edges Jack Nicklaus and Billy Casper to take the PGA Championship.

1966 — Jose Torres retains his world light-heavyweight title with a unanimous decision over Eddie Cotton in Las Vegas.

1993 — Greg Norman lips his putt on the PGA Championship's second playoff hole, giving Paul Azinger the title and leaving Norman with an unprecedented career of Grand Slam playoff losses. Norman, despite winning his second British Open title a month earlier, has lost playoffs in three other majors — 1984 U.S. Open, 1987 Masters, 1989 British Open.

1993 — Damon Hill, son of the late Graham Hill, becomes the first father-son Formula One winners when he takes the Hungarian Grand Prix.

1995 — Monica Seles returns to the WTA Tour after a 28-month absence following her 1993 stabbing with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Kimberly Po at the Canadian Open.

1999 — Tiger Woods makes a par save on the 17th hole and holds on to win the PGA Championship by one stroke over 19-year-old Sergio Garcia. Woods, 23, becomes the youngest player to win two majors since Seve Ballesteros in 1980.

2004 — In Athens, Greece, the U.S. men's basketball team loses 92-73 to Puerto Rico, the third Olympic defeat for the Americans and first since adding pros. American teams had been 24-0 since the professional Olympic era began with the 1992 Dream Team. The U.S Olympic team's record was 109-2, entering the game.

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL

1 p.m.	White Sox at Tigers	MLBN
3:07 p.m.	Yankees at Blue Jays	YES, 660 AM
4:10 p.m.	Nationals at Mets	SNY, FS1, 880 AM
7 p.m.	Red Sox at Pirates	Fox

NFL FOOTBALL

1 p.m.	Preseason: Vikings at Giants	WNBC 4, 101.9 fM
1 p.m.	Preseason: Browns at Bears	NFLN
4 p.m.	Preseason: Rams at Chiefs	NFLN
8 p.m.	Preseason: Cowboys at Seahawks	NFLN

MEN'S SOCCER

7:30 a.m.	EFL League One: Leicester City at Notts County	CBSSN
10 a.m.	EFL Championship: Lincoln City at Middlesbrough	CBSSN
7 p.m.	USL Championship: Charleston at Pittsburgh	ESPN2
7 p.m.	Liga MX: Toluca at Atlante	Univision
7 p.m.	USL League One: FC Naples at Westchester SC	MSG
7:30 p.m.	Red Bulls at Atlanta United	Apple TV
9 p.m.	Liga MX: Juarez at Monterrey	Univision
11 p.m.	Liga MX: Tigres UANL at Atlas	Univision

WNBA BASKETBALL

8 p.m.	Lynx at Aces	CBS

NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER

6:30 p.m.	Boston Legacy at Racing Louisville	ION
8:45 p.m.	Orlando Pride at Portland Thorns	ION

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

9 p.m.	UFC 330: Makhachev vs. Machado Garry; Dern vs. Robertson	Paramount+

GOLF

6:30 a.m.	DP World Tour: Danish Golf Championship, 3rd Round	Golf
1 p.m.	PGA Tour: FedEx St. Jude Championship, 3rd Round	Golf
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: FedEx St. Jude Championship, 3rd Round	CBS
3 p.m.	LPGA Tour: The Standard Portland Classic, 3rd Round	Golf
3 p.m.	USGA: 2026 U.S. Amateur, Semifinals	NBCSN
4 p.m.	USGA: 2026 U.S. Amateur, Semifinals	NBC
6 p.m.	PGA Tour Champions: Boeing Classic, 2nd Round	Golf

TENNIS

11 a.m.	ATP/WTA Cincinnati Open: 2nd Round	Tennis

BASKETBALL

Noon	BIG 3: Week 9- Celebrity Game and Playoffs	CBS
7 p.m.	2026 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony	NBATV

CFL FOOTBALL

7 p.m.	Saskatchewan Roughriders at Hamilton Tiger-Cats	CBSSN

AUTO RACING

10 a.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Ontario Honda Dealers Indy at Markham: Practice	FS2
1 p.m.	Supermotocross World Championships: Round 26	NBCSN
2:25 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Ontario Honda Dealers Indy at Markham: Qualifying	FS1
7 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: Cook Out 400	USA

SOFTBALL

10 a.m.	2026 RBI Nike Girls Championship	MLBN
7 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited All-Star Cup	ESPNU

MEN'S LACROSSE

2 p.m.	PLL: Maryland at Philadelphia	ESPN

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

5 p.m.	WLL Championship: California vs. Maryland	ESPN

HORSE RACING

2:30 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
3 p.m.	Saratoga Live: Christophe Clement Race	Fox
4:30 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
6 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2

AFL FOOTBALL

11:30 p.m.	West Coast at Greater Western Sydney	FS2
2:30 a.m. (Sun.)	Sydney at Essendon	FS2

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	22	12	.647	—
Atlanta	21	12	.636	½
Liberty	21	14	.600	1½
Washington	19	14	.576	2½
Chicago	12	22	.353	10
Toronto	10	23	.303	11½
Connecticut	8	24	.250	13

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Minnesota	28	7	.800	—
Golden State	24	9	.727	3
x-Las Vegas	24	11	.686	4
Dallas	20	15	.571	8
Portland	14	20	.412	13½
Phoenix	13	22	.371	15
Los Angeles	12	21	.364	15
Seattle	7	29	.194	21½

x-clinched playoff spot

Friday
Indiana 98, Dallas 87
Portland 84, Seattle 82

Saturday
Liberty at Connecticut, 1pm
Los Angeles at Washington, 7:30pm
Minnesota at Las Vegas, 8pm

Sunday
Chicago at Seattle, 5pm
Indiana at Atlanta, 5pm
Portland at Phoenix, 7pm

The POST Line

MLB

Saturday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
Yankees	$156-186	BLUE JAYS
METS	$126-148	Nationals
TIGERS	$125-149	White Sox
RAYS	$119-145	Orioles
ASTROS	$107-122	Mariners
ANGELS	$132-157	Royals
Rangers	$122-144	ANGELS
CUBS	$144-179	Cardinals
GIANTS	$117-133	Rockies
Marlins	-106-116	REDS
BRAVES	$116-141	Diamondbacks
Brewers	$118-144	DODGERS
GUARDIANS	OFF	Padres
Phillies	$124-154	TWINS
Red Sox	$102-126	PIRATES

WNBA

Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Liberty	7.5 (173.5)	SUN
MYSTICS	6.5 (172.5)	Sparks
Lynx	1.5 (183.5)	ACES

NFL Exhibition

Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Vikings	2.5 (41.5)	GIANTS
BILLS	3 (39.5)	Panthers
Browns	3 (40.5)	BEARS
CHIEFS	2.5 (36.5)	Rams
SAINTS	2.5 (35.5)	Jaguars
Eagles	3.5 (37.5)	RAVENS
SEAHAWKS	2.5 (38.5)	Cowboys

Home team in CAPS

College Football

Saturday, Aug. 29

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
TCU	7.5 (47.5)	Unc
USC	38.5 (60.5)	San Jose State
VIRGINIA	5.5 (53.5)	Nc State
N. DAKOTA ST.	7 (47.5)	Jacksonville St.
E. MICHIGAN	8.5 (52.5)	Sacramento St.
STANFORD	5.5 (49.5)	Hawaii
FLORIDA ST.	31.5 (52.5)	New Mexico St.
UNLV	6.5 (57.5)	Memphis

STITCHES

Let's play Double Jeopardy

Guilty! No, not Luigi Mangione. Stitches. This pick box is guilty as charged.

And now we are going to play Double Jeopardy on Saturday.

The Phillies visit the Twins. Philly's Jesús Luzardo has given up two runs and struck out 19 batters in his last 15 frames. Twins rookie Connor Prielipp has allowed six runs in his last 10 1/3. Play $100 on the Phillies.

Game 2: The Red Sox are in Pittsburgh. The Pirates' Jared Jones has lost three in a row, allowing 14 runs in those 13 innings. Boston counters with Sonny Gray. We had Sonny when he beat the White Sox, and we bet against Sonny when he lost to the Jays. Backing Gray again. $50 on the Red Sox.

-$

Truth is, when the Guardians took a 3-0 lead, I switched to the Savannah Bananas/Loco Coconuts game. But Xander Bogaerts and Fernando Tatis Jr. homered, and the Padres won 7-5. Winner! Down -627 buzzybavasis.

stitches@nypost.com

MMA

UFC 330, Saturday in Philadelphia

NAME	ODDS
Islam Makhachev	-360
vs. Ian Machado Garry	+285
Mackenzie Dern	-205
vs. Gillian Robertson	+170
Jalin Turner	-118
vs. Kauê Fernandes	-102
Mansur Abdul-Malik	-700
vs. Dustin Stoltzfus	+500
Edson Barboza	+500
vs. Esteban Ribovics	-700
Chidi Njokuani	+245
vs. Joel Álvarez	-305
Charles Johnson	-118
vs. Eduardo Chapolin	-102

Islam Makhachev
Ian Machado Garry
Getty Images

NAME	ODDS
Donte Johnson	-310
vs. Eric McConico	+250
Vicente Luque	-105
vs. Tresean Gore	-1151

NAME	ODDS
Rafael Tobias	+230
vs. Lucas Fernando	-285
Neil Magny	+124
vs. Ramiz Brahimaj	-148

TOP PLAY

QB edge a signal to lay a few points on Vikings

By DYLAN SVOBODA

Kyler Murray
AP

John Harbaugh isn't giving bettors much help ahead of the Giants' preseason opener against the Vikings.

The first-year Giants head coach is 41-22-1 against the spread in his preseason career but has been cagey about whether Jaxson Dart and the rest of Big Blue's starting lineup will play Saturday at MetLife Stadium. He told reporters Thursday he plans on keeping his personnel decisions under wraps until game time.

That uncertainty makes the Vikings and their straightforward quarterback situation much more appealing with this tight spread and so much uncertainty already baked into a preseason game.

Minnesota head coach Kevin O'Connell already has confirmed that both Kyler Murray, who officially won the starting quarterback job for the Vikings earlier this week, and J.J. McCarthy will play, giving the Vikings two quarterbacks with legitimate NFL starting experience.

The Vikings' depth behind center doesn't end there.

Carson Wentz, who is competing for a spot behind Murray and McCarthy, should also see the field in the Meadowlands. He is a luxury for a preseason game compared to most teams.

Wentz made five starts for Minnesota last season and went 2-3 while fourth-stringer Max Brosmer also started two games.

Compare that with the Giants, who could give most of their quarterback reps to Jameis Winston and Brandon Allen if Harbaugh elects to take it easy with Dart.

Dart still could suit up, but there is a lot more unknown with the Giants.

With Murray and McCarthy confirmed to play and Wentz potentially waiting behind them, Minnesota should have the better quarterback on the field for most, if not all, of Saturday's game.

THE PLAY: Vikings -2.5 (-130, FanDuel).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'26 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Yankees	Schlittler (R)		10-6	2.21	15-10	0-1	2.08	0-2	0-0	16.1	3.31
Blue Jays	Fisher (R)	(3:07pm)	3-3	3.54	5-2	0-1	6.43	1-1	0-0	3.2	2.81
Nationals	Lord (R)		5-2	3.79	2-0	0-0	1.76	1-1	0-0	5.0	1.80
Mets	Manaea (L)	(4:10pm)	4-5	4.13	5-6	0-0	20.25	1-3	2-0	19.0	2.37
Phillies	Luzardo (L)		10-5	3.32	16-8	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-0	21.1	3.38
Twins	Prielipp (L)	(7:10pm)	3-5	4.79	6-10	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	16.0	3.94
Padres	TBD		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guardians	Cantillo (L)	(7:10pm)	8-7	3.91	15-10	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	10.0	2.70
Red Sox	Gray (R)		14-3	2.79	16-6	1-2	2.21	7-6	2-1	19.0	2.84
Pirates	Jones (R)	(7:15pm)	2-4	5.03	6-7	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-3	13.0	9.69
White Sox	Kay (L)		9-5	3.96	13-9	1-0	1.80	1-0	2-1	17.2	2.55
Tigers	Melton (R)	(1:10pm)	7-1	1.46	11-2	1-0	1.38	2-0	2-0	20.0	0.00
Orioles	Bradish (R)		7-11	3.68	11-12	0-1	2.38	2-4	0-2	13.2	5.27
Rays	Seymour (L)	(6:10pm)	9-3	4.08	6-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	15.0	3.60
Mariners	Hancock (R)		6-7	3.35	10-12	1-0	5.40	2-0	0-3	15.2	4.60
Astros	Wesneski (R)	(7:10pm)	2-0	3.86	3-0	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	18.2	3.86
Royals	Dobnak (R)		2-1	2.00	3-2	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-1	17.0	2.65
Angels	Detmers (L)	(9:38pm)	3-8	4.00	8-16	0-0	5.40	0-1	0-1	15.0	3.60
Rangers	Gore (L)		6-9	4.43	13-12	0-1	4.66	1-0	0-1	18.1	1.96
Athletics	Ginn (R)	(9:40pm)	8-6	3.41	13-8	0-0	2.19	1-1	1-0	18.1	1.96
Cardinals	McGreevy (R)		4-9	3.64	11-12	0-1	37.80	1-2	0-1	11.2	9.26
Cubs	Boyd (L)	(2:20pm)	8-1	3.50	11-3	0-0	0.00	3-2	2-0	20.2	2.61
Rockies	Lorenzen (R)		3-10	6.83	9-15	0-0	4.15	0-2	0-1	11.1	9.53
Giants	Webb (R)	(4:05pm)	7-7	3.59	8-13	0-1	9.82	11-4	2-0	20.0	1.35
Marlins	Gusto (R)		0-3	4.78	5-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-1	15.0	5.40
Reds	Singer (R)	(6:40pm)	5-11	4.66	9-14	0-1	16.88	1-2	0-2	16.1	5.51
D'backs	Rodriguez (L)		11-4	2.70	18-6	0-0	0.00	1-0	2-1	20.2	3.05
Braves	Holmes (R)	(7:15pm)	7-4	3.47	16-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	16.2	1.62
Brewers	Misiorowski (R)		11-5	1.76	14-8	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	18.0	3.00
Dodgers	Wrobleski (L)	(7:15pm)	11-4	3.44	12-7	0-1	9.00	0-2	0-2	13.2	9.88

* **REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY Aug. 15	SUN Aug. 16	MON Aug. 17	TUE Aug. 18	WED Aug. 19
	Toronto 3:07 YES 660 AM	Toronto 1:37 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME	Baltimore 6:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Baltimore 6:35 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Washington 4:10 SNY FS1 880 AM	Washington 1:40 SNY 880 AM	San Diego 7:10 SNY 880 AM	San Diego 7:10 SNY 880 AM	San Diego 1:10 SNY 880 AM
	Connecticut 1:00 Fox 5	NO GAME	NO GAME	Chicago 9:00 ESPN	NO GAME

Today		Friday	
	Preseason: Minnesota 1:00 WNBC 4 101.9 FM		Preseason: Pittsburgh 7:00 WCBS 2 104.3 FM

Today		Sunday		Sunday, Aug. 23	
	Atlanta United 7:30 Apple TV		Phila. Union 6:00 Apple TV		Angel City FC 8:00 Victory+

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Holmes wins in first home Cubs start

Clay Holmes and three Cubs relievers combined on a three-hitter, and **Seiya Suzuki** hit a three-run homer Friday to send host Chicago to a 3-0 win over the Cardinals.

Making his second start and first at Wrigley Field since being acquired from the Mets at the trade deadline, Holmes (5-5) retired his first 16 batters before **José Fermin** singled in the sixth.

● In St. Petersburg, Fla., **Dylan Beavers** hit a two-run, pinch-hit single in the seventh to put Baltimore ahead to stay and the Orioles beat Tampa Bay 6-5 to snap the Rays' nine-game win streak.

● In Houston, **Christian Walker**'s three-run home run with two outs in the 10th inning lifted the Astros to a 10-7 win over the Mariners.

● In Cleveland, **Luis Campusano** and **Xander Bogaerts** each drove in three runs and the Padres overcame an early three-run deficit to defeat the Guardians 7-5. The Padres have won six straight and 16 of 20 since July 24.

● In Detroit, **Miguel Vargas** homered twice and the White Sox beat the Tigers 9-5.

● In Atlanta, **Brandon Pfaadt** allowed just two hits in seven innings in another strong start and the Diamondbacks beat the Braves 2-0.

● In Pittsburgh**, Brandon Lowe** hit a three-run home run and the Pirates earned an 8-4 win over the Red Sox.

NFL: Falcons' Pearce Jr. suspended 8 games

Falcons edge rusher **James Pearce Jr.** will be suspended for the first eight games of the 2026 season for violating the league's personal conduct policy, the league announced Friday. Pearce was arrested in February following a domestic dispute with his ex-girlfriend and WNBA player **Rickea Jackson**.

NBA: Hornets acquire veteran Schröder

The Hornets are acquiring veteran point guard **Dennis Schröder** and cash from the Cavaliers for guard **Tre Mann**, a person close to the situation told The Associated Press. Schröder joins his 12th franchise after being traded for the ninth time. The 32-year-old from Germany has career averages of 13.7 points and 4.9 assists.

GOLF: Scheffler shoots 61 to take 3-shot lead

Scottie Scheffler birdied the first five holes and shot a 9-under 61 to take a three-stroke lead in the FedEx St. Jude Championship in Memphis, Tenn. The top-ranked Scheffler had 11 birdies and two bogeys in 100-degree heat

ODDS & ENDS

NFL
Saturday
Vikings at Giants odds and props

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
Vikings	-134
Giants	+114
TEAM TO SCORE FIRST TOUCHDOWN	**ODDS**
Giants	+110
Vikings	-140
No touchdown	40/1
GIANTS TEAM TOTAL	**ODDS**
Over 20	-115
Under 20	-119
VIKINGS TEAM TOTAL	**ODDS**
Over 21.5	-110
Under 21.5	-121
WINNING MARGIN	**ODDS**
Giants by 1-6	+285
Giants by 7-12	+450
Giants by 13-18	+950
Giants by 19-24	21/1
Giants by 25-30	45/1
Giants by 31+	45/1
Vikings by 1-6	+250
Vikings by 7-12	+400
Vikings by 13-18	+600
Vikings by 19-24	12/1
Vikings by 25-30	27/1
Vikings by 31+	45/1
RACE TO 20 POINTS	**ODDS**
Vikings	+121
Giants	+154
Neither	+325
RACE TO 30 POINTS	**ODDS**
Neither	-250
Vikings	+360
TOTAL FIELD GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 3.5	+123
Under 3.5	-164

Giants 2026 season stage of elimination

RESULT	ODDS
Miss playoffs	-325
Lose in wild card round	+450
Lose in divisional round	10/1
Lose NFC Championship	19/1
Lose Super Bowl	50/1
Win Super Bowl	66/1

Giants award props

RESULT	ODDS
Jaxson Dart MVP	65/1
Brian Burns Defensive POY	33/1
Malik Nabers Offensive POY	40/1
Cam Skattebo Offensive POY	100/1
Malachi Fields Offensive ROY	80/1
Arvell Reese Defensive ROY	+850
John Harbaugh Coach of the Year	+650
Malik Nabers Comeback POY	19/1
Andrew Thomas Protector of the Year	27/1

BET SMART

'Mr. Swift' will clear lower bar for yards

AP

MARRIED BUT NOT DEAD: Travis Kelce's yards receiving prop is available at a huge discount at age 36 and following his celebrity wedding with Taylor Swift. Sean Treppedi is taking the Over, citing Kelce's rapport with healthy QB Patrick Mahomes.

By SEAN TREPPEDI

Remember Travis Kelce — the football player?

Becoming Taylor Swift's husband seemingly has overshadowed his identity to the point you'd almost think the NFL merely is a hobby for the 36-year-old. At least, that's how the masses see things; evidently, trading rooms too.

The Chiefs went from dynasty to disaster last season, missing the playoffs for the first time since 2014. It was also the first time they failed to win the AFC West in 10 years.

If there are any common denominators throughout the success of three Super Bowls and seven AFC Championship appearances in the span, they're Kelce, Patrick Mahomes and Andy Reid. Mahomes and Kelce's rapport made them arguably the greatest quarterback-tight end tandem of all time, but after Mahomes fell to an ACL tear in Week 15, their fate was all but sealed after already withstanding key injuries all season.

Although Kelce's production, which was already regressing, took a blow, he still managed to top his career-low 2024 output by 23 yards. And he did that on 25 fewer targets, 21 fewer catches and three games of Chris Oladokun under center, no less.

Mahomes has achieved a full recovery and is on track to start Week 1 at Arrowhead Stadium against the Broncos. He'll also have a restored offensive line in front of him after it collapsed to injury late last year, which will buy him more time to find his targets.

In the meantime, sportsbooks feel as though Kelce is still honeymooning on a hammock somewhere: His 2026 receiving yardage prop stands at 675.5 at FanDuel, a 175.5-yard drop from his 2025 total.

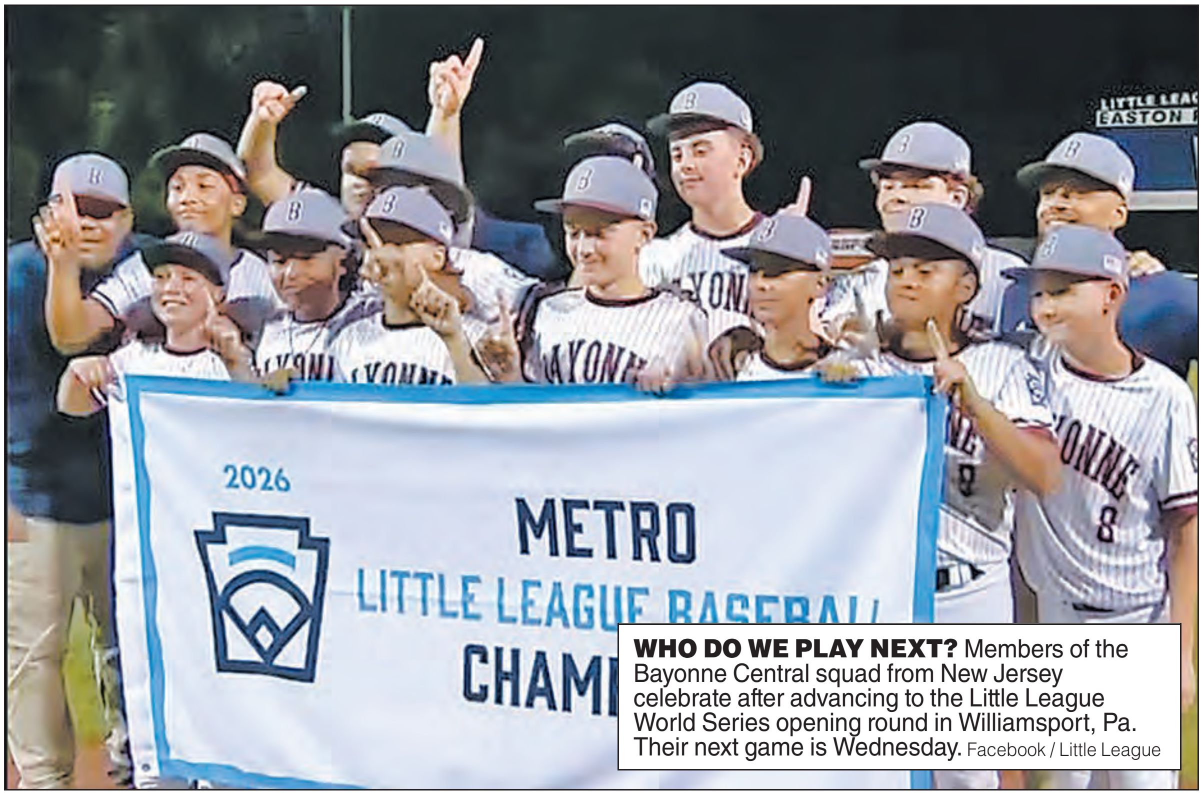
Let's not forget that even if the Chiefs lost their mojo, the offense still ran through Kelce as he led the team in yards, targets and catches and tied for the most receiving scores. Of course, that's primarily due to the fact that Rashee Rice missed the first six games to suspension and Xavier Worthy dislocated his shoulder three snaps into the campaign.

Even so, Kelce would need only 79.4 percent of last season's production to clear this line.

He's made his career on chunk plays, getting downhill and using his size and balance to evade defenders. Nothing about his game last season evidenced a decline in this ability; he cleared his average yards after catch per reception rate by two fifths of a yard at 5.6 and posted a catch of 15 or more yards in 11 of the 14 games Mahomes started.

The four-time first-team All-Pro's relationship with Mahomes simply can't be replicated elsewhere, and no one knows that better than Kelce himself. He chose to leave money on the table from other teams to sign an extension in Kansas City for a reason. Kelce restructured his deal into a three-year, $54.7 million contract, but it's essentially a one-year commitment for 2026 with the following two primarily serving as salary-cap mechanisms.

That one year is not going to waste as it's very likely it could be his last. Kelce and Mahomes may not be the inexorable force they used to be, and while his age and regression are baked into the line, we don't need them to be at their zenith to cash on a Swift discount.



WHO DO WE PLAY NEXT? Members of the Bayonne Central squad from New Jersey celebrate after advancing to the Little League World Series opening round in Williamsport, Pa. Their next game is Wednesday. Facebook / Little League

JERSEY GIANTS

Bayonne Little Leaguers headed to Williamsport

By ALEX MITCHELL

October came early.

Fans were treated to an outright spectacle and thrilling end to the Little League World Series Metro regional tournament with New Jersey's Bayonne Central launching an epic, 8-6 championship comeback over Darien, Conn., advancing to Williamsport for the first time in the league's 75-year history.

BAYONNE, NJ	**8**
DARIEN, CT	**6**

Neither side would budge an inch in the barn burner on 60-foot basepaths. The Constitution State's best put up a much mightier fight than in the two teams' opening-round matchup, which Jersey took 8-2 last Saturday night in Bristol, Conn.

Catcher Hugh Butler got the Darien offense ignited with an RBI triple off Bayonne pitcher Chase Klimkowski.

Left fielder Alex Abelson and designated hitters Jack Houlihan and Roscoe Hurty — all 12 players on the roster bat around — kept the heat on Bayonne with first-inning RBIs that put Darien up 4-0 in the first inning.

It was the first game in the double-elimination tournament that undefeated N.J. surrendered more than two runs.

Bayonne second baseman Owen Feliz took exception to the early lead and drove in a pair of runs with an RBI double against Darien pitcher Chase Sutter that cut the Connecticut deficit to 4-2 in the bottom of the first.

Sutter answered with six straight strikeouts and a two-run homer in the third that pushed the lead to 6-2. It added to his phenomenal championship performance that ended with nine strikeouts in three innings and change. Mason Rincon came on the mound in relief and cauterized the damage for Bayonne.

At the plate, Dairen took no chances on the powerhouse batter by intentionally walking Rincon three times — once to load the bases in the third inning and again in the fifth.

Sutter let up a run the next batter on a botched fielder's choice and walked catcher Jett Bridges right after, but got out of the jam with a 6-4 lead.

He came out in the fourth after reaching the mandatory 85-pitch threshold. Hurty took over and got out of the inning unscathed.

Rincon helped put out the fire on defense with his own heat, gassing six straight batters in innings 4-6. Feliz came up with the bases juiced and one out in the fifth after Rincon's third intentional walk of the game and smashed a warning-track double that tied the game at six apiece.

Bridges then hit a game-changing RBI gap single on reliever Rex Paquette, and Klimkowski tacked on another run with a fly ball that dropped in right field, which turned the tables for the thrilling 8-6 Bayonne comeback that's now epic Little League lore. Rincon put down Darien in order in the sixth of six innings and finished with nine strikeouts.

Bayonne will be back in action for the Little League World Series opening round against Bridgewater, Mass., at 7 p.m. Wednesday on ESPN.

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2 national teams eye Red Bulls' goal-scoring star

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

It seems to be just a matter of time before Red Bull New York star Julian Hall earns a senior national team call-up.

But whether that will be for the U.S. men's national team or Poland, which has made an effort to try to recruit the 18-year-old, who is eligible to play for the European nation due to his Polish descent through his mother, remains a question. And one right now that Hall still doesn't necessarily have an answer for.

"Especially with the World Cup being here, I've had time to think about that and I feel like I'm at a point where I'm still in between," Hall told The Post at the Red Bulls' training facility in suburban New Jersey. "I'm still respecting both of my nationalities, and I think they're two amazing opportunities. I feel like that's up to the future, and I'm not really right now making a decision."

The Manhattan native's 2026 breakout season has catapulted him into the soccer spotlight, scoring nine goals in 18 starts for the Red Bulls during the regular season, which included a hat trick in their May 13 win over the Columbus Crew to become the youngest player in league history to accomplish the feat.

Hall also became the youngest player in MLS history to score five goals in his first six matches of the season. His scoring has slowed down since the hat trick, having not found the back of the net.

"I think obviously scoring goals is my job and I think you know I've done a decent job at that," he said. "I want to score more, and that's always the goal every single game I go into. And I think something I could work on, the coaches, we talk about just my physical presence and being stronger on the ball."

Still, the excitement around Hall is palpable.

The president of the Polish Football Association, Cezary Kulesza, made a recruiting trip to Hall's mother in April and Hall's name was lightly mentioned during the last World Cup cycle before U.S. men's national team coach Mauricio Pochettino named his final squad.

"He definitely should be amongst the player pool for the next generation of players, and he's proven it here on a day-to-day basis," Red Bulls head of sport Julian de Guzman told The Post. "We do everything possible to continue his development to push him in that direction, and guess what? He's working with a coach [Michael Bradley] who has played for the [U.S.] men's national team as a captain over 150 times, so, I mean, he's getting the best of the best in terms of his development."

There will be plenty of opportunities for Hall to get in front of the USMNT staff going forward. While Hall did not take part in the Concacaf U-20 Championship — a decision he said that the national team, the Red Bulls and he thought "was best" — the U.S. men's national team will play friendlies in September and October, before the Concacaf Nations League tournament begins this fall.

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Gotham wins at home

By ELIO VELEZ

Gotham FC overcame a tie for the fastest goal in NWSL history Friday night by receiving goals from Midge Purce and a landmark tally by Sam Kerr to give the hosts a 2-1 NWSL victory over the Kansas City Current Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, N.J.

Gotham FC improved to 13-3-4 with 43 points and increased their first-place lead over the idle Washington Spirit to seven points.

The 33-year-old Kerr was the recipient of Jaedyn Shaw's deft moves to dribble past two defenders and slide a pass to the Australian international as she tapped the ball into the net in the 41st minute for a 2-1 Gotham lead. She became Gotham FC's all-time leading scorer with her 31st career tally.

Amelia White shocked Gotham just 22 seconds into the contest.

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **12:30 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Road Show (3rd)
Lock Record: 12 for 26 (46%)
Meet Record: 67/276 $447.16

1 6 fur; $54,000; clm($30,000); 3up

Two turf stakes today. The Grade 1 Christophe Clement and the Galway...In the opener **SALMING** won by 5 widening lengths here last month. Well spotted for repeat off the Rice claim. Will have to catch **MATH TUTOR**. Won by open lengths as well. Gate to wire at Aqueduct in April. **NANTZ** Midpack 4th at 14-1 after racing wide.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Epitaph(L),126	E Zayas	2-2-11	Potts	8-1
2	The Toy Cannon(L),122	K Carmouche	7-5-1	Dixon	5-1
3	Schlomo(L),126	H Harkie	3-7-3	Kantarmaci	10-1
4	Nantz(L),126	R Santana, Jr	5-4-5	Kantarmaci	10-1
5	Antietam(L),126	S Gonzalez	7-1-7	Kantarmaci	6-1
6	Salming(L),126	M Franco	1-3-3	Rice	2-1
7	Math Tutor(L),126	C Elliott	1-3-8	Antonucci	4-1
8	Fistfulofmoney(L),122	J Ortiz	3-7-3	Rice	6-1

2 6 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

A wide open baby race to back-end the double. **SARATOGA TEA** debuted 2 lengths shy here in July. Edge over first-time starters **MINDFIELD** (Casse/Saez/Mind Control), **SANTIS** (Maker/Carmouche/Epicenter), **SCRAMJET** (Rice/J Ortiz/Uncle Mo) and **BIG HANDSOME** (Abreu/Prat/City Of Light).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Top Thriller,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	McPeek	6-1
2	Equilibrate,123	M Franco	x-x-x	C Brown	8-1
3	Saratoga Tea,123	R Santana, Jr	4-x-x	Brisset	9-2
4	Mindfield,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Casse	7-2
5	Santis,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Maker	10-1
6	Scramjet,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	Rice	8-1
7	Big Handsome,123	F Prat	x-x-x	Abreu	4-1
8	Upper Echelon,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Cox	5-1
9	Silver Knight,123	S Bridgmohan	8-x-x	Giddings	20-1

3 6 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

The **ROAD SHOW** was last of 9 before powering down the stretch to finish 2nd in his opener. Wins 2nd time around, getting more ground. **CUT DOWN THE NETS** Distant 4th, close 2nd here this summer. **J BUCK** (Barker/Saez/Keep Me In Mind), **NYSTATEOFMIND** (Weaver/Franco/Solomini) and **ARAWAK** (Maker/Carmouche/Drain The Clock) are live first-timers.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Neptuneroad Richie,123	D Davis	x-x-x	Hills	20-1
2	Wartoendallwars,123	J Castellano	x-x-x	Sacco	12-1
3	Private Banker,123	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Ferraro	15-1
4	Road Show,123	J Ortiz	2-x-x	Casse	7-5
5	Nystateofmind,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Weaver	5-1
6	J Buck,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Barker	12-1
7	Cut Down the Nets,123	I Ortiz, Jr	2-4-x	Green	3-1
8	Arawak,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Maker	8-1
9	Sweet Redemption,123	C Elliott	7-x-x	Ryerson	12-1

4 1 mile; $105,000; alw; 3up(f)

Rice over Rice. Linda's **LADY ROSE** enters off a wide 4th of 7. Won 2 of previous 3 including a race at this longer distance. **TOP OF THE TABLE** loads off a weak 6th at Finger Lakes. Got up late to win at this longer distance at the Big A earlier this year. Rice gets Carmouche back. **FULL POUR** Turf to dirt for Hennig. Midpack 4th last dirt start. Alvarado replaces Lezcano who stays on Lady Rose.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Honest Reason(L),121	C Elliott	11-3-1	Dixon	15-1
2	Lady Rose(L),121	J Lezcano	4-1-2	Rice	9-5
3	Last Glory(L),126	R Santana, Jr	8-2-6	D'Alessandro	8-1
4	Full Pour(L),126	J Alvarado	6-6-4	Hennig	5-1
5	Top of the Table(L),126	K Carmouche	6-2-3	Rice	3-1
6	Fedupwiththefed(L),126	F Prat	9-6-1	Donk	9-2
7	Grace Reformed(L),126	J Rodriguez	6-6-2	Guerrero	6-1

5 1 1/16 miles(T); $105,000; alw; 3up(f)

Going to **CONSIDERATE CITY** who is 1 for 8 but in the money last 4 starts, all at this distance, the latest in a 200k. Ferraro gets Franco to seal the deal. **TONGUE TWISTER** About 3 lengths short last pair. Well back of Considerate City previously. Changes for **BRITAIN** after turning in last of 8. Dirt to turf; sprint to route, 2nd off the layoff for Clement. Prat was aboard for lone dirt win. **ATHENAS FURY** broke maiden (3rd start). Competitively spotted, same distance for Green.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Bertrille(L),126	R Santana, Jr	6-3-8	Baker	5-1
2	Tongue Twister(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	4-4-7	Brion	3-1
3	Boomington(L),121	D Davis	7-6-3	Weaver	6-1
4	Diptique(L),126	S Fret	4-3-1	Khan	50-1
5	Britain(L),121	F Prat	8-5-1	Clement	5-1
6	Athena's Fury(L),121	J Alvarado	1-3-4	Green	8-1
7	Miami Style(L),121	L Saez	7-1-2	Orseno	30-1
8	Considerate City(L),121	M Franco	2-2-2	Ferraro	8-5

6 6 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

Career debuts for these 2YO fillies. Here's how we see them crossing the wire. Godolphin's **FREE VERSE** (Cox/Franco/Justify), **TUMOOHAAT** (Pletcher/Saez/Into Mischief), **CLOCK** (Pletcher/Carmouche/Drain The Clock), **ONINAMILLIONGIRL** (DeVaux/J Ortiz/Audible) and **LIBBY LLOYD** (Brown/Prat/Into Mischief).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Clock,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	Pletcher	12-1
2	V Formation,123	E Zayas	x-x-x	Beckman	10-1
3	Libby Lloyd,123	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	9-2
4	Rags to Roses,123	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Baker	20-1
5	Oneinamilliongirl,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	DeVaux	6-1
6	Belle N Brooke,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	7-2
7	Free Verse,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Cox	8-1
8	Tumoohaat,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Pletcher	5-2
9	Groves,123	J Alvarado	x-x-x	Mott	8-1

7 5 1/2 fur(T); $125,000; alw; 3up

Dancin' with **VACATION DANCE** who got up to win here last month. Shakes higher. About 2 lengths shy (at 52-1) racing at this level at the Spa in June. **VETTRIANO** MTO. **SPICED UP** Narrowly defeated by a next out winner. Won the Grade 3 Mahony here last summer. Hasn't won since. **NO EVIDENCE** exits a close win as well. It was his first W in 1 1/2 years. **BITE AND STRIKE** won 2 in row at Aqueduct. Stretch runner needs it fast up front.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Spiced Up(L),126	J Alvarado	2-5-2	Mott	4-1
2	Bite and Strike(L),126	J Lezcano	1-1-7	Rice	6-1
3	No Evidence(L),126	F Prat	1-7-3	Clement	4-1
4	Final Verdict(L),126	J Ortiz	8-3-2	Barker	7-2
5	War Stride(L),126	M Franco	2-3-3	Weaver	8-1
6	Candytown(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	4-6-4	Pletcher	9-2
7	Vacation Dance(L),126	D Davis	1-5-6	Noda	8-1
8	Attfield(M),122	E Zayas	3-9-7	Morley	8-1
9	Vettriano(L),126	M Franco	4-6-4	Rice	5-2

8 6 fur; $115,000; mdn; 2YO

Liftoff! **QB ROCKET** makes his maiden voyage for Brad Cox. Sired by Gun Runner. **CARD MAN** (Brown/Prat/Life Is Good), **MCCOY** (DeVaux/J Ortiz/Vekoma) and **DALLAS STAR** (Pletcher/Franco/Flightline) make career debuts as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	McCoy,123	J Ortiz	x-x-x	DeVaux	6-1
2	Card Man,123	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	7-2
3	Q B Rocket,123	I Ortiz, Jr	x-x-x	Cox	4-1
4	Farsideofthemoon,123	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Green	12-1
5	Katz in the Cradle,123	L Saez	x-x-x	Summers	10-1
6	Dallas Star,123	M Franco	x-x-x	Pletcher	8-1
7	Decimation,123	R Santana, Jr	2-5-x	Asmussen	6-1
8	Damavand,123	D Egan	x-x-x	Pletcher	9-2
9	Hooked,123	C Elliott	x-x-x	McPeek	30-1
10	Vukota,123	K Carmouche	x-x-x	LaRose	12-1

9 1 1/2 miles(T); $750,000; Christophe Clement; 3up

Can Miguel Clement win the Grade 1 Cristophe Clement? **TAWNY PORT** snapped a lengthy losing skid when he won the 2 mile Belmont Gold Cup, pulling down a triple digit fig. Now 2 for 3 at the Spa but 0 for 10 at this shorter distance. **MINARET STATION** enters off a fast closing 3rd in the Bowling Green. Stretches. Board hitter 6 of 7 including 3 wins. **PROGRAM TRADING** brings a 2 race winning streak from Monmouth, the latest in the Grade 2 United Nations. **OLE CRAZY BONE** and **FORT GEORGE** ran 1-2 in the Bowling Green and must be considered.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Ancient Egypt(IRE),120	D Egan	x-x-x	Johnston	5-1
2	Tawny Port,124	K Carmouche	1-4-9	Clement	8-1
3	Ole Crazy Bone,124	I Ortiz, Jr	1-2-1	Maker	4-1
4	Program Trading(GB),124	F Prat	1-1-4	C Brown	7-2
5	Fort George(GB),124	K Shoemark	2-x-x	Walker	9-2
6	Minaret Station,124	J Ortiz	3-2-4	Walden	3-1
7	Survie(IRE),119	M Franco	1-x-x	Boughey	6-1

10 5 1/2 fur(T); $200,000; Galway; 3YO(f)

Class relief for Brad Cox' **CADENZA**. Ran 3rd in a pair of Grade 3's here this summer. Franco stays on; so do we. **MAUNA LOA** makes her stake debut after winning 2 of 3 at Woodbine. Fast filly is the one to catch. **QUEEN JUNO** graduated, then runnerup with allowance at 43-1. Exotics value. **TRISKELION** won a 120k at Ellis. **GERRARDS CROSS** won a 100k at Monmouth.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Gerrards Cross,124	D Davis	1-2-6	O'Connell	6-1
2	Epic Lady Luck,120	J Castellano	3-1-2	Weaver	12-1
3	Oscar's Encore,122	J Ortiz	1-9-6	Sharp	6-1
4	Queen Juno,120	K Carmouche	2-1-4	Sharp	10-1
5	Cadenza,124	M Franco	3-3-1	Cox	7-2
6	Mauna Loa,122	I Ortiz, Jr	1-8-1	Casse	3-1
7	Triskelion,124	L Saez	1-2-1	Arnold II	5-1
8	Mythical,124	E Zayas	8-3-1	Delgado	9-2
9	L'Eclair,124	Rider TBA	4-2-3	R Dutrow	4-1

11 1 mile; $70,000; alw; 3up

CELTIC PRINCE is 2 for 10 after winning by 4+ at Colonial. **CALLING CARD** is 2 for 14 after winning by 7+ lengths at Aqueduct. Both move higher, same distance. **MCDIESEL** led, settled for 3rd. Winner last time he raced this shorter distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dinner Royale(L),121	J Rodriguez	4-1-6	Green	7-2
2	Calling Card(L),126	M Franco	1-2-2	Rice	5-2
3	Big Brooklyn(L),121	K Davis	1-5-8	C Martin	20-1
4	Celtic Prince(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	1-4-3	Brion	6-1
5	McDiesel(L),126	S Gonzalez	3-10-1	Rodriguez	6-1
6	Takahama(L),121	K Carmouche	1-2-11	Giangiulio	12-1
7	Come Full Circle(L),126	F Prat	2-3-3	Sharp	3-1
8	Sociably Johnny(L),121	J Lezcano	2-3-3	Rice	8-1

12 1 1/16 miles(T); $56,000; mdn clm($50,000); 3up

GILBANE raced wide; lost by a head. Another try, same distance. **MAXIMUM HEAT** MTO. **BEFORE THE WIND** is 0 for 10 after missing by 4 lengths. Moves lower; rider change to J Ortiz. **FIVEDOLLARSFORSOX** (West Point/Clement/Prat/Oscar Performance) makes career debut.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Before the Wind(L),126	J Ortiz	9-5-2	Merryman	3-1
2	Shenanigans Buck(M),121	C Elliott	x-x-x	Giddings	20-1
3	D C Boy's(L),126	R Santana, Jr	7-4-3	Maker	10-1
4	Osiris Law(L),121	I Ortiz, Jr	3-x-x	Lopez	8-1
5	Lobbyist(L),121	K Carmouche	6-4-2	Donk	8-1
6	Foto(L),126	J Castellano	9-3-5	Duggan	10-1
7	Surfside Dan(M),121	E Zayas	x-x-x	James Bond	20-1
8	Gilbane(L),121	M Franco	2-5-2	Green	5-2
9	Mo Curls(L),121	J Lezcano	2-6-6	Rodriguez	12-1
10	Fivedollarsforsox(M),121	F Prat	x-x-x	Clement	5-1
11	Maximum Heat(L),121	J Ortiz	6-5-x	Rice	2-1
12	True Adirondacker(L),121	J Castellano	7-6-8	Potts	15-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

Night Sky (13-1) ran well for 2nd. Unfortunately, Cosmic Year (6-5) ran 2nd as well. Melody Man scratched. Loss of -$10.88.

Four bets. Play $30 to win on Road Show in Race 3. And $4 across the board on Free Verse in Race 6, Vacation Dance in Race 7 and Tawny Port in Race 9. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Saratoga Results

FIRST-1 mile; $78,000; soc($75,000); 3YO

4	Stckpwthtgn (Ortz)	5.64	3.26	2.86
1	Into the Light (Davis)		3.42	2.90
2	Jets Rio (Santana,Jr.)			5.10

● $1 Exacta (4-1) $8.17 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-1-2-3) $10.84 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-1-2) $21.24

Winner picked by Vic C

SECOND-5½ fur; $90,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F

5	Erly Autmn (Vlzqz)	7.42	4.90	3.16
8	Night Sky (Zayas)		10.90	4.66
6	Southern Kiss (Ortiz)			2.20

Scr: Cayenne, Atlas a Eye
● $1 Daily Double (4-5) $21.13 ● $1 Exacta (5-8) $40.23 ● $1 Quinella (5-8) $24.54 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-8-6-7) $38.69 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-8-6) $54.85

THIRD-1 mile; $125,000; alw; 3up

5	Intellct (FR) (Ortz)	5.80	2.54	2.12
2	Cosmc Year (GB) (Frnco)		2.36	2.10
6	Paros (Carmouche)			3.14

Scr: Georgia Magic, Alan Turing, Sherlock's Jewel, Le Gris
● $1 Pick 3 (4-5-5) $57.54 ● $1 Daily Double (5-5) $14.72 ● $1 Exacta (5-2) $5.26 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-2-6-4) $2.30 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-2-6) $9.08

FOURTH-7 fur; $65,000; clm($55,000); 3up

3	Freaky (Davis)	26.10	10.58	5.64
7	Swaging (Gaffalione)		8.00	5.36
6	Neigh Baby (Rodriguez)			5.08

● $1 Pick 3 (5-5-3) $227.02 ● $1 Daily Double (5-3) $49.02 ● $1 Exacta (3-7) $105.13 ● $1 Quinella (3-7) $43.02 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-7-6-1) $227.61 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-7-6) $300.05

FIFTH-1 mile; $71,000; mdn clm($85,0); 3up

3	Ovechkn (Gfflone)	25.62	12.92	6.40
7	Stream It (Franco)		6.24	3.84
6	Old Tme Rocknroll (Crmouch)			3.04

● $1 Pick 3 (5-3-3) $466.12 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (5-5-3-3) $1657.76 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-5-5-3-3) $7486.47 ● $1 Daily Double (3-3) $139.93 ● $1 Exacta (3-7) $99.96 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-7-6-1) $188.23 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-7-6) $154.06

SIXTH-1 1/16 mile; $115,000; mdn; 2YO F

8	Blge (IRE) (Frnco)	3.82	2.74	2.34
10	Mel Went Home (Saez)		4.18	3.14
2	Whatever It Takes (Velzquez)			4.08

Scr: Littleberry
● $1 Pick 3 (3-3-8) $806.74 ● $1 Daily Double (3-8) $32.99 ● $1 Exacta (8-10) $8.30 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-10-2-5) $13.35 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-10-2) $22.94

SEVENTH-1 mile 1 fur; $45,000; cl($16,0); 4up

7	Glen Ary (SntnJr.)	5.00	3.22	2.36
5	Sharp Spark (Gonzalez)		5.50	3.18
9	Apalta (Franco)			2.62

Scr: Fever Night
● $1 Pick 3 (3-8-7) $135.41 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (3-3-6/8-4/7) $1094.05 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (5-3-3-6/8-4/7) $2579.88 ● $1 Daily Double (8-7) $5.88 ● $1 Exacta (7-5) $11.68 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-5-9-6) $7.89 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-5-9) $10.63

Winner picked by Vic C

EIGHTH-7 fur; $125,000; alw; 3up

2	Cntrry Thnkng (Rdrgz)	7.42	4.78	2.94
3	Commuted (Santana,Jr.)		12.12	5.62
7	Bold Strength (Ortiz)			2.32

● $1 Pick 3 (8-7-2) $20.15 ● $1 Daily Double (7-2) $11.59 ● $1 Exacta (2-3) $40.58 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-3-7-1) $25.48 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-3-7) $57.01

NINTH-5½ fur; $200,000; Smart & Fancy; 3pf

9	Zeitlos (Ortiz)	4.76	2.98	2.34
2	Delightful Flame (Davis)		6.84	5.18
4	Le Amazonia (Alvarado)			6.76

Scr: Munnings Express, Capturing, Ratu Jawa
● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (7-2-5) $8.87 ● $1 Grand Slam (2/8/10-5/7/9-2/3/7-9) $3.49 ● $1 Pick 3 (7-2-9) $24.55 ● $0.5 Pick 5 ((X-COUNTRY P5) 3-7-7-2-9) $88.14 ● $1 Daily Double (2-9) $12.73 ● $1 Exacta (9-2) $15.34 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-2-4-1) $28.15 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-2-4) $59.72 ● $1 Consolation Double (2-5) $3.59

TENTH-1 mile; $71,000; mdn clm($85,0); 3up

9	Luz de Guia (Davs)	12.66	6.08	2.70
7	Languid (Velazquez)		6.90	3.34
2	About Face (Gaffalione)			2.12

Scr: Vivaldi, Melody Man, Minotaur
● $1 Pick 6 (3-6/8-4/7-2-5/8/9/10-ALL) $8.34 ● $1 Pick 6 (3-6/8-4/7-2-5/8/9/10-ALL) $881.77 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (2-5-1/4) $3.67 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (2-5-9) $77.75 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (2-9-1/4) $11.27 ● $1 Pick 3 (2-9-9) $283.50 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (4/7-2-5/8/9/10-ALL) $11.06 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (6/8-4/7-2-5/8/9/10-ALL) $30.66 ● $1 Daily Double (9-9) $32.47 ● $1 Exacta (9-7) $38.40 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-7-2-8) $38.04 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-7-2) $61.92 ● $1 Consolidation Pick-3 (2-5-1/4) $3.67 ● $1 Consolidation Pick-3 (2-5-9) $77.75 ● $1 Consolidation Pick-3 (2-9-1/4) $11.27 ● $0.1 Show (9-7-2-8) $38.04 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-7-2) $61.92

A NEW CHALLENGE

Key Knicks assistant hired by Bulls

LET'S GO TO THE VIDEO: Jordan Brink (left) departed his job as a Knicks assistant coach for a similar role in Chicago. In New York, head coach Mike Brown entrusted Brink to be in charge of video challenges, a task that played a key role in one of the team's NBA Finals wins. Getty Images

By JARED SCHWARTZ

The Knicks are losing a valued member of Mike Brown's coaching staff.

Jordan Brink, an assistant who served as the team's director of video services and player development, was hired by the Bulls to be an assistant on Tiago Splitter's staff, The Post confirmed.

Brink was notably in charge of the Knicks' challenges the past two years (under both Tom Thibodeau and Brown) — an area in which they were incredibly successful and often held a clear edge over opponents.

It's a significant loss as they'll need someone else to fill that role.

"Jordan, he's been a master at this," Brown said previously.

Fans will remember his effect on Game 2 of the NBA Finals, when Brink instructed Brown to challenge a call late in the fourth quarter of their dramatic 105-104 win over the Spurs at Frost Bank Center.

The Knicks were crumbling and had blown a 14-point lead, and with the game tied 97-97 with 2:37 left, referees ruled that the ball went out of bounds off OG Anunoby.

But under Brink's instruction, Brown challenged that Anunoby had been fouled while attempting a 3-pointer on the play.

After a review, the call was reversed and Anunoby received three free-throw attempts. He made all three — instead of the Spurs having possession with a chance to go in front, the successful challenge re-established the Knicks' lead and halted the Spurs' momentum.

"He's been doing this now two years in a row," Brown said of Brink after that game. "I rely totally on him. Every once in a while I lose my mind, get emotional, and try to stick it to the refs, even though I like all of them. But that never works. So, I try like heck to follow Jordan's lead, and it was 100 percent his call."

Brink's contract was up, and the Bulls job will represents a promotion.

The Knicks coaching staff is crowded, and there is no room at the moment for a promotion.

The Post previously reported that his Brink's future was uncertain, though Brown's front-of-the-bench assistants are expected to be back.

The Knicks also lost a lower-level assistant, Carson Shanks, earlier this offseason, as his contract was up.

Brink has ambitions of becoming a head coach, and this move presents a clearer path toward that goal than staying with the Knicks would have. A Dyer, Ind., native, it also brings him closer to home.

He played collegiately at Calvin College and got his NBA coaching start as an assistant for the Pistons under Dwane Casey.

Brink joined the Knicks in 2023 on Thibodeau's staff and was retained by Brown when he took over last year.

He spent three years with the Knicks — the past two in charge of their challenges. He was also the Knicks' Summer League coach last year. Brink leaves the Knicks as a champion — and with an important role they'll have to replace.

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Oak's lawsuit vs. MSG dismissed for third time

By ANDREW CRANE

Charles Oakley's lawsuit against Madison Square Garden and owner James Dolan was dismissed for a third time Friday, concluding another chapter in the legal battle involving the former Knicks star that dates back to when he was ejected from the Garden following an altercation with security guards in February 2017.

MSG said in a statement that the claims were dismissed by the court "in their entirety" and that it planned to pursue legal action against Douglas Wigdor — Oakley's lawyer — and "his unscrupulous law firm." Wigdor, in a statement to The Post, expressed disappointment with the court's ruling and still hoped for a jury trial.

"For more than nine years, Mr. Oakley's lawyers have pursued claims they knew were false," MSG said in its statement. "Those claims have now been dismissed by the Court in their entirety — for a third time. We are pursuing legal action against Douglas Wigdor, and his unscrupulous law firm, to hold them accountable for years of frivolous litigation and their blatant abuse of the judicial system."

The case was initially tossed in early 2020, revived later that year, tossed again in 2021 and then revived for a second time in May 2023.

"We are disappointed with the Court's rulings," Wigdor said in his statement to The Post. "We believe there are conflicting accounts and only a jury can decide what exactly happened. We are hopeful that the Second Circuit will agree for a third time and remand the case for an immediate jury trial."

Oakley, who spent 10 years as a player for the Knicks and was a key piece of the franchise's success in the 1990s, was arrested and removed from the Garden during the Knicks game on Feb. 8, 2017, and while the charges were dropped, he filed a lawsuit later that year — alleging, in part, assault, false imprisonment and defamation. That lawsuit was dismissed in February 2020. The 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the dismissal of the battery and assault claims in November 2020. When the appeals court reversed it for a second time in 2023, it ruled that the "question of whether the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances is generally best left for a jury to decide."

But more than three years later, a third dismissal followed. In circuit judge Richard J. Sullivan's opinion and order, he wrote that "no rational jury could conclude that Oakley reasonably feared himself at risk of wrongful physical contact — let alone that MSG intended to stir such an apprehension."

"Even though the alleged assault occurred in the middle of Madison Square Garden in front of 19,000 and scores of cameras, Oakley concedes there's no other witness — besides himself — who says he was pushed to the ground," Sullivan wrote.

Oakley's public feud with Dolan has loomed over the Knicks since it began. The Post's Jared Schwartz reported in 2025 that the team was willing to welcome Oakley back as a "celebrated team alumnus" if he dropped the lawsuit. An initial ban instituted by Dolan in 2017 had been lifted. Oakley attended playoff games on the road during the Knicks' championship run in the spring.

"Ample evidence — including videos from multiple angles and the unanimous testimony of every witness (even, to some extent, Oakley himself) — shows that Oakley had a reasonable opportunity to depart the Garden, that he instead resorted to physical violence, and that he was never pushed to the ground," Sullivan wrote.

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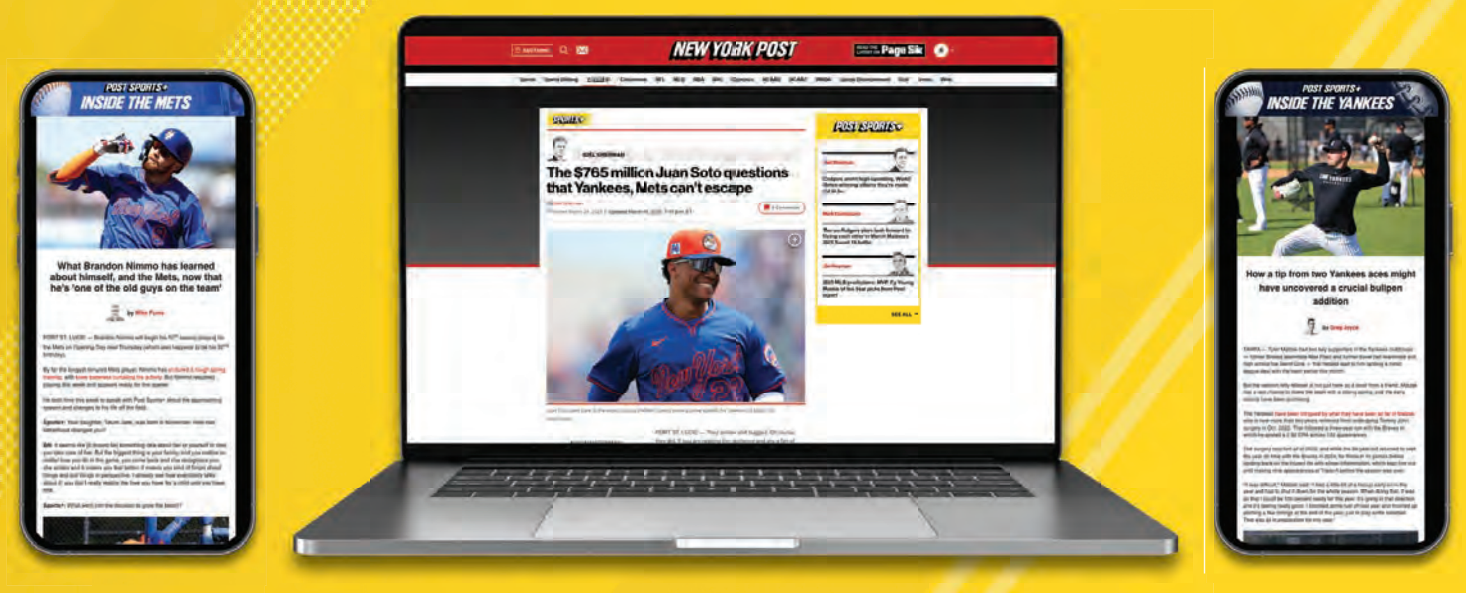
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INSIDE THE METS
What Brandon Nimmo has learned about himself, and the Mets, now that he's 'one of the old guys on the team'
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The $765 million Juan Soto questions that Yankees, Mets can't escape
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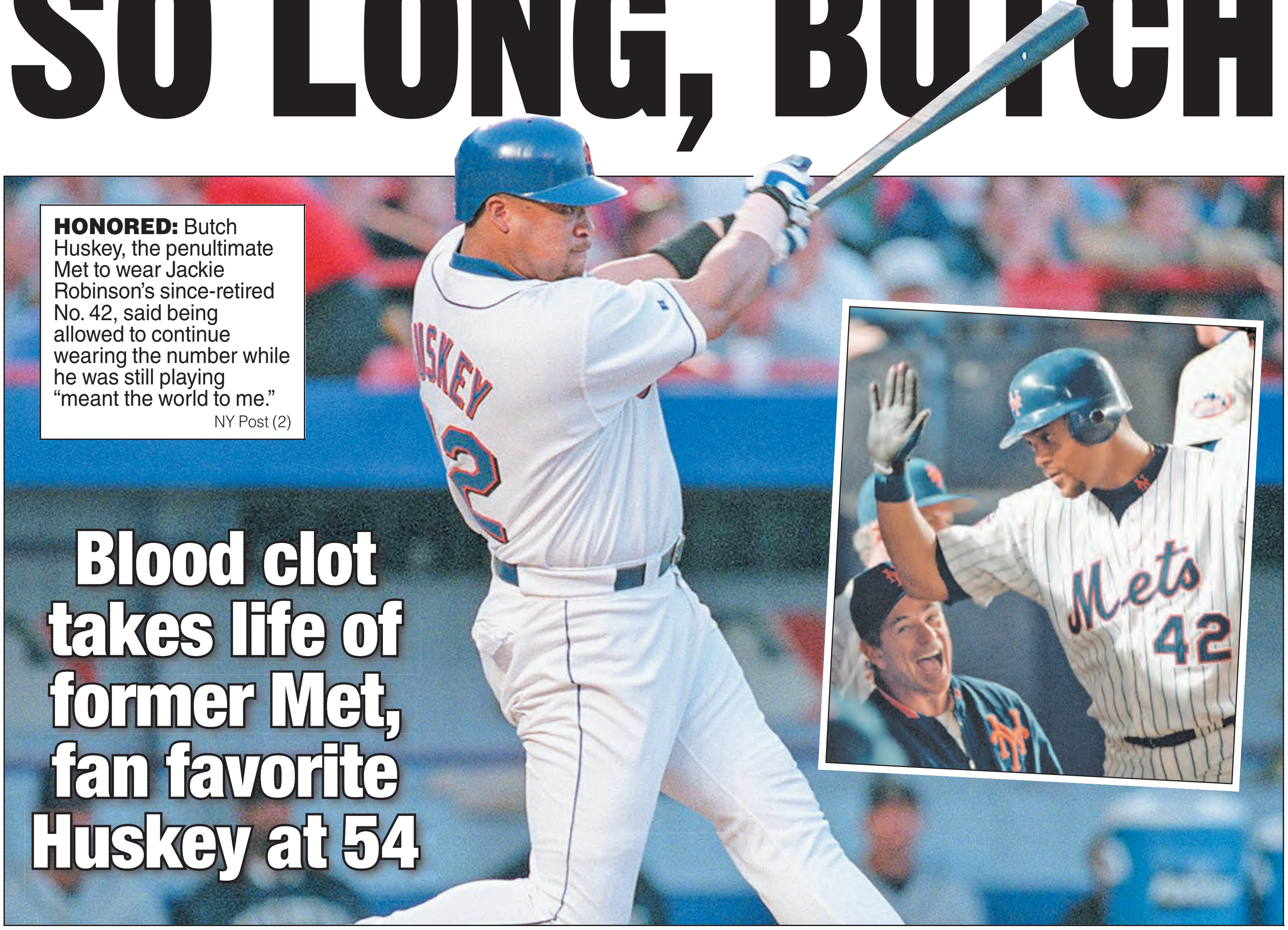

Blood clot takes life of former Met, fan favorite Huskey at 54

HONORED: Butch Huskey, the penultimate Met to wear Jackie Robinson's since-retired No. 42, said being allowed to continue wearing the number while he was still playing "meant the world to me."
NY Post (2)

By ANDREW CRANE

Butch Huskey, who was the penultimate Met to wear No. 42 and spent parts of five seasons in Queens, has died, the team announced Friday.

He was 54 years old.

Huskey died from a blood clot in his lung, The Post's Dan Martin confirmed.

"I just want to acknowledge this solemn day with the passing of Butch Huskey this morning," Mets interim manager Andy Green said. "Just want to send prayers and thoughts to his family. I know all of our Mets family is thinking of him and the people who love him today."

Huskey was the Mets' seventh-round pick in 1989 out of high school, and he made his MLB debut four years later before going on to appear in 414 games for the Mets — while also spending time with the Mariners, Twins, Red Sox and Rockies. He hit .264 with a .740 OPS with the Mets while playing both infield and outfield.

Until 2016, Huskey held the Mets record for most RBIs in an inning after collecting five during the sixth frame of a 1998 game against the Marlins. After the 1998 season, the Mets traded Huskey to the Mariners, and he was dealt again to the Red Sox — a team that ended up making the ALCS in 1999 before losing to the Yankees and falling short of breaking the franchise's World Series curse.

But a core part of Huskey's legacy with the Mets — as a former hyped prospect who, in a 1993 article in The Post, was dubbed as their "third baseman of the near future" — came with his jersey number. He wore No. 42 when Jackie Robinson's number was universally retired on April 15, 1997 and said on a Mets broadcast in 2024 that he remembers the "whole night" when Robinson's wife Rachel, commissioner Bud Selig and then-President Bill Clinton made the announcement during the fifth inning of the Mets' game against the Dodgers.

"That's one of the best memories I had in my lifetime," Huskey said on the 2024 broadcast, "and it'll always stay with me."

Huskey, in a 2024 press conference, said he didn't have an inkling about the ceremony. He knew something big was happening because of Clinton and the presidential security detail, but "I didn't grasp how big it was until that happened." Initially, he didn't think he'd be able to wear his number anymore. But he became one of the players grandfathered in and allowed to continue wearing 42.

Huskey recalled on a 2024 episode of "Amazin' Conversations with Jay Horowitz" that he wrote an essay in high school about the legacy of Robinson after an English teacher — who loved Robinson and knew that Huskey loved baseball — brought the paper idea to him. And, as of then, he still had that No. 42 jersey from the retirement night with Rachel's autograph. Mo Vaughn, who was another player grandfathered into wearing that number, was the last Mets player to don No. 42.

"It meant the world to me and not just myself but a lot of other kids, people of color" Huskey said on the 2024 broadcast about wearing Robinson's number. "He went through things that paved for us to have it not as hard as he did, and I just don't think I could've done what he did to go that route with it."

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Soto, Williams aim for returns despite lost season

By DAN MARTIN

Juan Soto played at least 150 games in every full major league season he had appeared in before this season.

Now deep into his second IL stint because of a calf strain this season — this one to his left calf — Soto said again Friday he expects to be back this year.

He added that dealing with these calf issues actually will pay dividends down the road.

"It sucks," Soto said before Friday's 4-1 victory over the Nationals at Citi Field. "It's tough for me, tough to lose so many games [to injury]. I've never been on this side of it."

But he noted the potential silver lining: "It's good for me, for my career, for the long [term]. It will teach me a lot of things to adjust in training [and] conditioning, to keep moving forward in a positive way."

Still just 27, Soto was productive while healthy with the Mets this season, but it wasn't enough to keep them in contention.

Soto did some pregame agility work at Citi Field and said that as he gets older, he will have to treat his body differently.

And even with the Mets opening Friday 11 ½ games back of the final NL wild-card spot and with the third-worst record in the National League, Soto and another veteran on the injured list, Devin Williams, expressed a strong desire to get back on the field before the end of the season.

"We're playing really good baseball right now," Soto said of a Mets team that won six of seven after the trade deadline before dropping their last two in Atlanta. "Why not join this team? I think it's going to be really fun. It's going to be really great for me and the team."

A playoff run is out of the question, but Soto said the goal is to "finish strong and keep the momentum for next year."

It remains to be seen what kind of momentum the Mets are able to maintain over the final month-plus of the regular season, especially without Soto and a bullpen that was decimated at the deadline and then lost Williams.

Williams said his shoulder strain was "something that had been nagging [and] needed to be addressed."

Still, the closer also said he intended to return in 2026, though he has yet to begin throwing.

"It would be nice to come back and go into the offseason with some positivity," Williams said. "And have some good outings before the inevitable."

The right-hander's first season in Queens has looked more like his lone season with the Yankees, which was marred by inconsistency, than his dominance in Milwaukee.

Williams would like to close the first season of a three-year, $51 million deal on a high note.

"I just want to get back and contribute a little bit, at least, and have a better taste in my mouth going into next year," Williams said.

And Williams continues to lament how poorly this season has gone for a team that entered with high expectations.

"We've had the pieces to be a really good team," Williams said. "We just haven't put it all together."

As for the future, Williams says there's cause for optimism.

"Obviously, there's going to be some moves made this offseason," Williams said. "I think we go into next year with the same goal: to be competing to win the division, hopefully make the playoffs and have a chance to win the World Series."

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Sabally's focus on her health right move after concussions

Madeline Kenney

SATOU Sabally never really wanted to get into the details of the aftermath of the concussion she suffered in Game 3 of last year's WNBA Finals, which sidelined her for most of the offseason.

When she joined the Liberty this offseason, her focus shifted to continuing her sister Nyara's legacy in New York and addressing unfinished business she shares with college teammate Sabrina Ionescu.

Sabally wanted to win a championship, and her addition made the Liberty no-brainer championship favorites.

"I was more so focused on where I want to be next," she said earlier this season.

But the past has a way of catching up to you.

Studies show that once someone suffers a concussion, they are more likely to sustain another.

Sabally, unfortunately, is another example of that.

Sabally exited a June 23 game in Las Vegas after taking NaLyssa Smith's arm across her face in the first quarter. She tried playing through it, but determined in the second quarter that she couldn't.

The team had referred to it as a "facial" injury.

Sabally experienced delayed onset symptoms and entered concussion protocol.

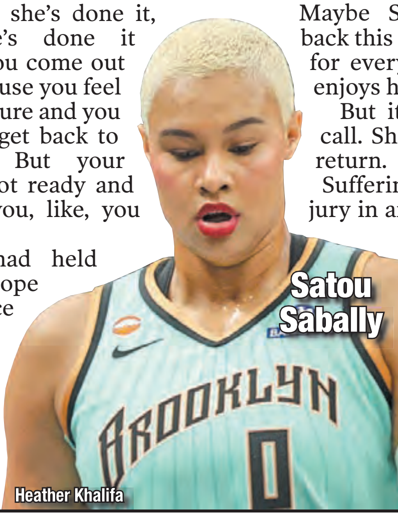
She has been sidelined since.

Sabally hasn't spoken with reporters. The Liberty only offered vague updates about her progress and no timeline for her return.

She's since cleared concussion protocol, but remains out with what the team is calling a "head" injury. Head coach Chris DeMarco announced Thursday that Sabally would be away from the team indefinitely as she works to get back to 100 percent.

Ionescu said it was the "right" and "mature" decision.

"You can sympathize with somebody who's just trying to come back from not feeling like themselves," Ionescu said. "For us as teammates, that's kind of our job to give her the safe space to not put any pressure but understand the human being comes first and the athlete comes second. And she needs to feel her best to be able to go out there and play. I mean, I've done it, probably she's done it, everyone's done it where you come out just because you feel the pressure and you want to get back to playing. But your body's not ready and it tells you, like, you know."



Satou Sabally

Heather Khalifa

Fans had held out hope that, once Sabally and Leonie Fiebich returned, the Liberty could reach their potential.

But in the past week, the talk has shifted. Ionescu has mentioned the return of Fiebich at least twice now sans Sabally.

Saturday
LIBERTY AT SUN
1 p.m.
Fox 5

Maybe Sabally isn't coming back this season. It's a bummer for every basketball fan who enjoys her game.

But it would be the right call. She shouldn't force her return.

Suffering a second brain injury in an eight-month period isn't something to mess with. Returning to the court before she's physically and mentally ready would be reckless.

Kudos to the Liberty for trying to give Sabally the space to step away without pressure.

People can talk about what this means for the Liberty's title hopes.

After all, Sabally was New York's marquee free agent acquisition. General manager Jonathan Kolb signing her to a two-year, $1.67 million contract seemed like a massive discount at the time for a superstar player who could have commanded at least $1 million per season.

People can wonder what this means for Sabally's future.

The 28-year-old unicorn is in what should be the prime years of her career.

It all feels so unfair for her.

But her long-term health — both physically and mentally — should be of the utmost importance.

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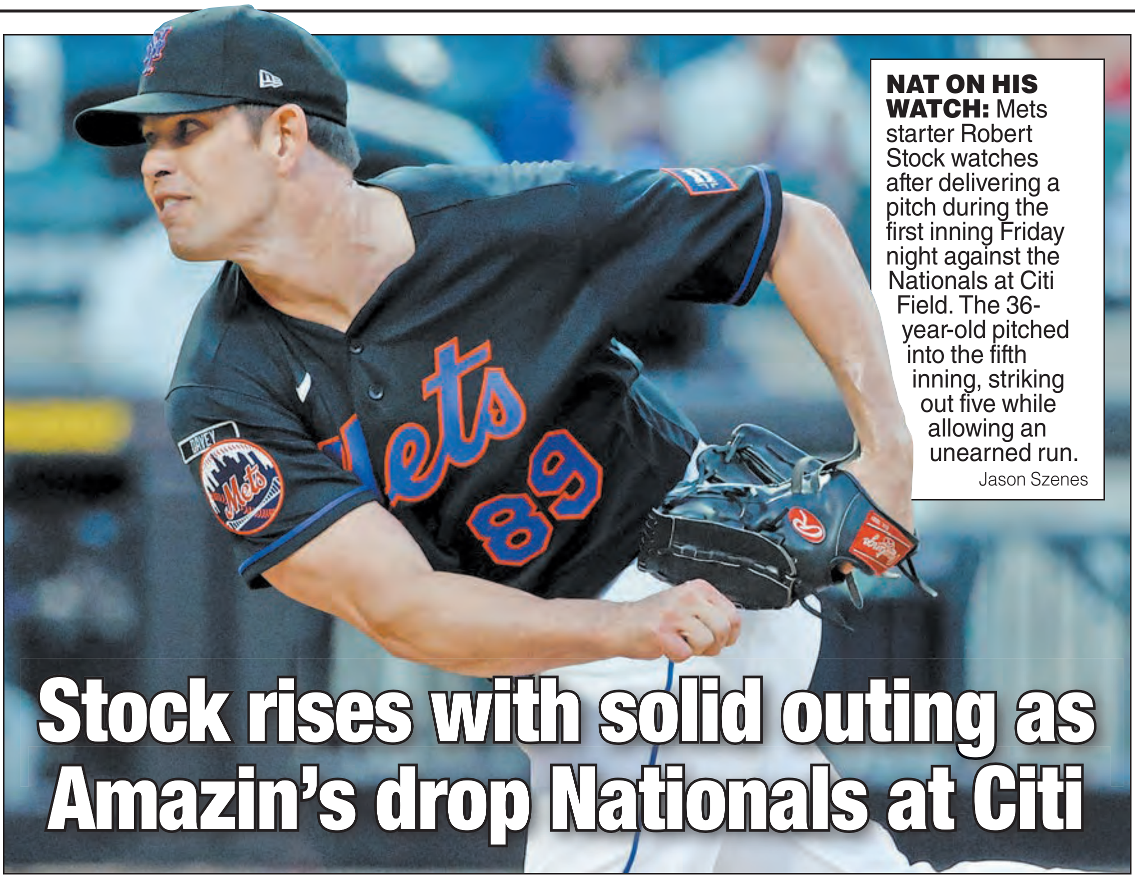
BULL MARKET

Stock rises with solid outing as Amazin's drop Nationals at Citi

By MARK W. SANCHEZ



NAT ON HIS WATCH: Mets starter Robert Stock watches after delivering a pitch during the first inning Friday night against the Nationals at Citi Field. The 36-year-old pitched into the fifth inning, striking out five while allowing an unearned run.
Jason Szenes

Any game that invokes optimism for the 2027 Mets rather than dismay regarding the 2026 version is a good game for the franchise.

On Friday night, Robert Stock looked like a nice piece rather than a novelty. Each reliever behind him, including closer Kodai Senga, made a case that he belongs on next year's Opening Day roster. Jared Young continued to make the most of his playing time and strengthened his argument for that time to remain next year.

It all added up to a nicely played, 4-1 comeback victory over the Nationals in front of 30,660 at Citi Field, where the Mets (54-69) offered the only thing they have left to offer this season: hope for the future.

It began with Stock, a 36-year-old whose age is looking more like a quirk than a drawback. A journeyman who has pitched just about everywhere from indy ball to South Korea to Mexico; who was signed for a second time by the Mets as a late-career flier and then required surgery for thoracic outlet syndrome this spring; and who is as well-versed in pitching technology and language as anyone in the game, Stock is not a regular case of a kid trying to make an impression late in a lost season.

That impression was darkened in his previous outing, an eight-run blowup in Pittsburgh. On Friday, a pitcher and person known for bouncing back bounced back.

"It's really good stuff," interim manager Andy Green said of Stock, who allowed one unearned run and struck out five in 4 1/3 innings. "So if he gets in the zone, he has quite a bit of success."

He was in and out of the zone, walking three but typically relying on his movement to escape potential jams. Washington only scored in the third when Francisco Lindor did not stay down on a sharp ground ball from Abimelec Ortiz that skipped into the outfield to put runners on the corners, which led to a Brady House RBI single.

Otherwise, Stock was unblemished, in part because Nate Lavender entered with two on and one out in the fifth and escaped. Behind the rookie lefty, Jonathan Pintaro (two scoreless innings and his first major league win), Daniel Duarte (a clean eighth) and ultimately Senga (second save) held down the Nationals.

All are potential pieces of the Mets staff next year.

"Pretty much all we want to do is we want to go out there and compete," said Pintaro, another former indy baller who is trying to find a niche as a multi-inning weapon out of the bullpen. "Just do everything we can to show the world that we deserve this chance and that we have a great opportunity here just to compete and help our teammates do everything they can to get the wins."

METS	**4**
NATIONALS	**1**

Boxscore Page 32

The Mets' offense consisted of rallies in the sixth and seventh, the former including a Lindor homer that atoned for his error and an RBI knock from Carson Benge, and the latter featuring Young teeing off on former Yankee Jake Bird and Bo Bichette adding an RBI single.

Barring something unforeseen, Lindor, Benge and Bichette will be members of the 2027 Mets.

Increasingly, Young is building a case that he belongs within this offensive group, too.

A complementary piece who has held his own at first base and consistently hit righty pitching, Young is under team control and only playing better with added playing time, now slashing .319/.396/.495 over his past 30 games.

"He knows what he's good at and he stays consistent with it," Green said of Young, who has gone from the KBO to a legitimate Mets silver lining.

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ON DECK

vs. Nationals

Saturday, 4:10 p.m., SNY, FS1, WHSQ (880 AM)

LHP Sean Manaea

2026 stats:
4-5, 4.13 ERA

Career vs. WAS:
1-3, 5.45 ERA

Last start:
Sun., at PIT;
7 IP, 10 H, 3 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

38%	31%	20%
4-Seamer	Sweeper	Sinker

RHP Brad Lord

2026 stats:
5-2, 3.79 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
1-1, 4.02 ERA

Last start:
Sun., vs. CIN
2.2 IP, 1 ER, 4 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

36%	23%	22%
4-Seamer	Sinker	Slider

UP NEXT

SUN.: vs. Nationals,
1:40 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Christian Scott
vs. RHP Jake Irvin

MON.: vs. Padres,
7:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Nolan McLean
vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

- **Devin Williams** (right shoulder strain) still is not throwing but hopes to return at some point this season.
- **Mark Vientos** (right hand fracture) is hitting, running and fielding, but the Mets are not sure when he will begin a rehab assignment.

Alvarez finally finding footing at plate, hungers for more

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

Francisco Alvarez disagreed with the premise of the question.

"There's a lot of good guys right now, a lot of good hitting catchers," the Mets catcher said when asked about the dearth of such players. "[Cal] Raleigh. We have Gabriel Moreno. We have Hunter Goodman. We have [Shea] Langeliers."

Major league catchers entered play Friday hitting a cumulative .232 with a .689 OPS. Across town, Yankees catchers had batted .198 with a .583 OPS. With apologies to Alvarez, the position — likely because of the amount of work that goes into defensive and game-planning preparation along with the toll that nine innings of kneeling takes on the body — is a dark hole in many lineups.

With compliments to Alvarez, it's a bright spot for the Mets.

Amid a year of Mets frustrations, Alvarez is putting together what director of major league hitting Jeff Albert said is a "great" and "more consistent" campaign. A former No. 1 prospect in all of baseball, Alvarez might be authoring his best of four complete major league seasons, albeit while missing about four weeks — somehow only four weeks — after tearing the meniscus in his right knee in May.

He has 13 home runs in 85 games, his most since slugging 25 as a rookie in 2023. His average and on-base percentage were poor that first season, though, and Alvarez is hitting better (.248) and matched his career high in walks during Friday's 4-1 win over the Nationals (0-for-3, 3 K, 1 BB), which had contributed to a .339 OBP. His .766 OPS was the seventh best in the majors among catchers with at least 250 plate appearances, trailing only Goodman, Dillon Dingler, Moreno, Langeliers, Liam Hicks and Drake Baldwin.

"Those guys, they're having an unbelievable year, and I feel I'm not," said Alvarez, who believes there is another level he can reach. "… I think I can be up there with those guys."

To do so would require another leap.

The largest difference in his age-24 campaign is that Alvarez often is pulling the ball. He entered sending 45.7 percent of his batted balls toward the left side, a spike from 2024 (34.8 percent) and 2025 (31.2 percent). For years, there has been internal and external debate regarding whether Alvarez is best as a pull-side slugger or a hitter who sprays balls around the field.

According to both the hitter and the coach, the change is not intentional. Alvarez theorized he is jumping on more breaking pitches. It's true that he is seeing fewer but putting more in play, and his numbers against those pitches have improved.

More Mets / Pages 40, 31

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INJURY REPORT

- **Cody Bellinger** (hamstring strain) did a full workout on the field early Friday afternoon, taking fly balls in left field and running the bases as he inches closer to a return.
- **Angel Chivilli** landed on the IL at Triple-A with right posterior elbow soreness.

ON DECK

at Blue Jays
Saturday, 3:07 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Cam Schlittler

2026 stats:
10-6, 2.21 ERA

Career vs. TOR:
0-2, 4.12 ERA

Last start:
Sun. vs. ATL; 7.0 IP, 3 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

44%	26%	20%
4-Seamer	Cutter	Sinker

TBD

2026 stats:
—

Career vs. NYY:
—

Last start:
—

PITCH BREAKDOWN

–%	–%	–%
–	–	–

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: at Blue Jays, 1:37 p.m., YES, WFAN
LHP Ryan Weathers vs. RHP Dylan Cease

TUESDAY: at Orioles, 6:35 p.m., YES, WFAN
RHP Will Warren vs. RHP Shane Baz

NO CAN’ DO

Lack of hitting, miscues doom Bombers in loss to Blue Jays

By GREG JOYCE

BLUE JAYS 3
YANKEES 1

Boxscore Page 32

TORONTO — The place that served as the Yankees’ house of horrors last year delivered a nightmare of a throwback inning Friday night.

And thanks to another quiet offensive night, it was enough to sink them in another loss.

What should have been an inning-ending double play to preserve a one-run lead in the sixth inning turned into a comedy of errors — somewhere, Benny Hill’s “Yakety Sax” must have been playing — tying the game and extending the inning so the Blue Jays could take the lead on the way to a 3-1 win over the Yankees at a sold-out Rogers Centre.

Continuing to operate with a razor-thin margin for error because their offense has been doing next to nothing on most nights, the Yankees (68-54) once again got quality pitching from Gerrit Cole but were let down by their defense and baserunning while remaining 6½ games back of the Rays in the AL East.

“Obviously, it continues to be a challenge for us [offensively],” said manager Aaron Boone, who was ejected in the top of the sixth for arguing balls and strikes rather mildly from the dugout. “This is another night where we made decent contact and we were having some of the right at-bats. But at the end of the day, we got to push runs across when we get opportunities because that’s where we’ve struggled. We got to make it happen.”

The sequence that ruined Cole’s start and the Yankees’ night started harmlessly enough. They led 1-0 in the bottom of the sixth with one out and runners on first and second when George Springer hit a chopper to third base. Ryan McMahon fielded it, stepped on third and threw across the diamond trying to complete the double play. But his throw was a one-hopper to Luis García Jr., who tried to backhand the scoop, only for his glove to fly off in the process.

“Springer’s moving pretty good, felt like I had to throw it as soon as I stepped on the bag,” McMahon said. “Just didn’t get enough on it to get it all the way over there.”

García then made matters worse by picking up the ball, spinning and firing to third base, where shortstop George Lombard Jr. was in the general vicinity (McMahon had trailed toward home after throwing to first) but not in a position to handle García’s wild throw. Lombard then collided with Vladimir Guerrero Jr. while trying to chase after the loose ball to no avail as Guerrero raced home to tie the game.

“Once he got his back to the play, I think he just got overly aggressive throwing to third,” Boone said. “Should’ve obviously held it.”

With the extra out, Alejandro Kirk drilled a double that scored Springer to put the Blue Jays ahead 2-1. Cole, who became frustrated during Guerrero’s at-bat when he lost track of how many disengagements he had left and could not get clarification quickly enough from the umps, lamented leaving a first-pitch slider down the middle to Kirk (who later added a solo shot in the eighth inning off Bradley Hanner in his MLB debut).

Trent Grisham snapped the Yankees’ 14-inning scoreless streak by leading off the top of the sixth inning with a solo shot off Shane Bieber for the 1-0 lead.

But that was the only offense they could muster, now having scored just one run over their last 18 innings since Wednesday’s 10-run outburst. It marked the ninth time in their last 14 games that the Yankees have scored two runs or fewer, wasting another strong pitching performance from Cole, who allowed just two runs (one earned) across six innings.

The Yankees’ baserunning miscue came in the third inning from Lombard, who took what Boone described as an “overly aggressive” turn around second base on Grisham’s single to right field and was caught in a pickle for the second out.

Cole insisted that the bats’ extended malaise was not adding extra stress on the pitchers, though common sense would say otherwise.

“We’re having a good time pitching and playing close games,” Cole said. “Certainly we want to blow guys out and secure as many wins as possible, but at the same time, we’re throwing the ball well, we’re playing good defense and we’re hanging in a lot of games, giving ourselves a chance to win.”

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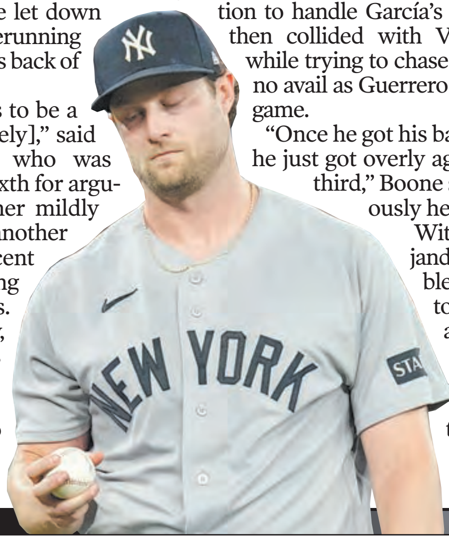

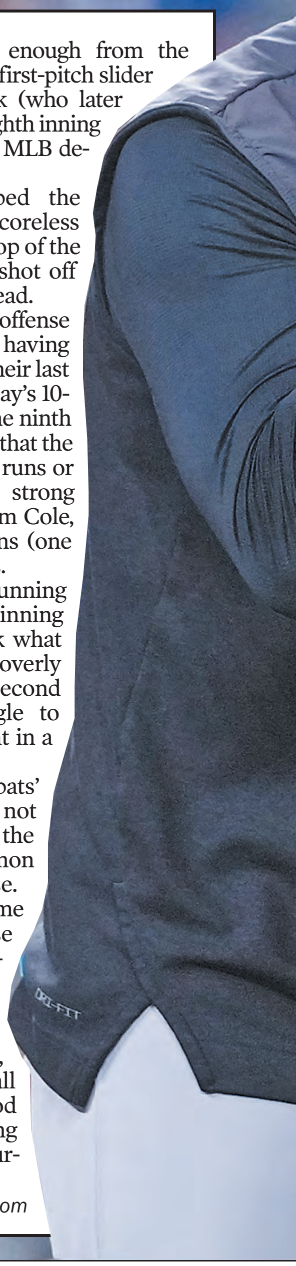

Ramos crushing ball, but

By GREG JOYCE

TORONTO — Heliot Ramos knows why the Yankees acquired him at the trade deadline: to help lift up a scuffling offense.

The outfielder has been eager to do just that. Except in his first handful of games with his new team, despite hitting the ball hard, he has not gotten much in the way of results, which is where human nature starts to kick in and perhaps work against him to an extent.

“Probably just trying to do too much,” Ramos said Friday at Rogers Centre. “Because I see the ones that I hit not landing. I feel like you’re going to get out — things happen, baseball happens, you’re going to get out. So whenever that happens, I’ve tried to do too much and that’s when the strikeouts happen.”

After going 0-for-3 with three hard-hit flyouts in Friday’s 3-1 loss to the Blue Jays, Ramos is batting 2-for-28 with two doubles, 10 strikeouts and three walks in his first nine games as a Yankee. That included being 0-for-6 with two walks against lefties, whom the right-handed hitter had been brought in to mash.

In the extremely small sample size, Ramos has struck out at a higher rate (30.3 percent) than he did with the Giants (26.8 percent), which he was quick to point out.

“That kind of sucks for me,” he said. “But when I hit it, I hit it. So I’ve been feeling pretty good. I just have to stay within myself. I haven’t been chasing a lot, so that’s something I like. I just want to stay positive, stay consistent with it.”

The underlying numbers have

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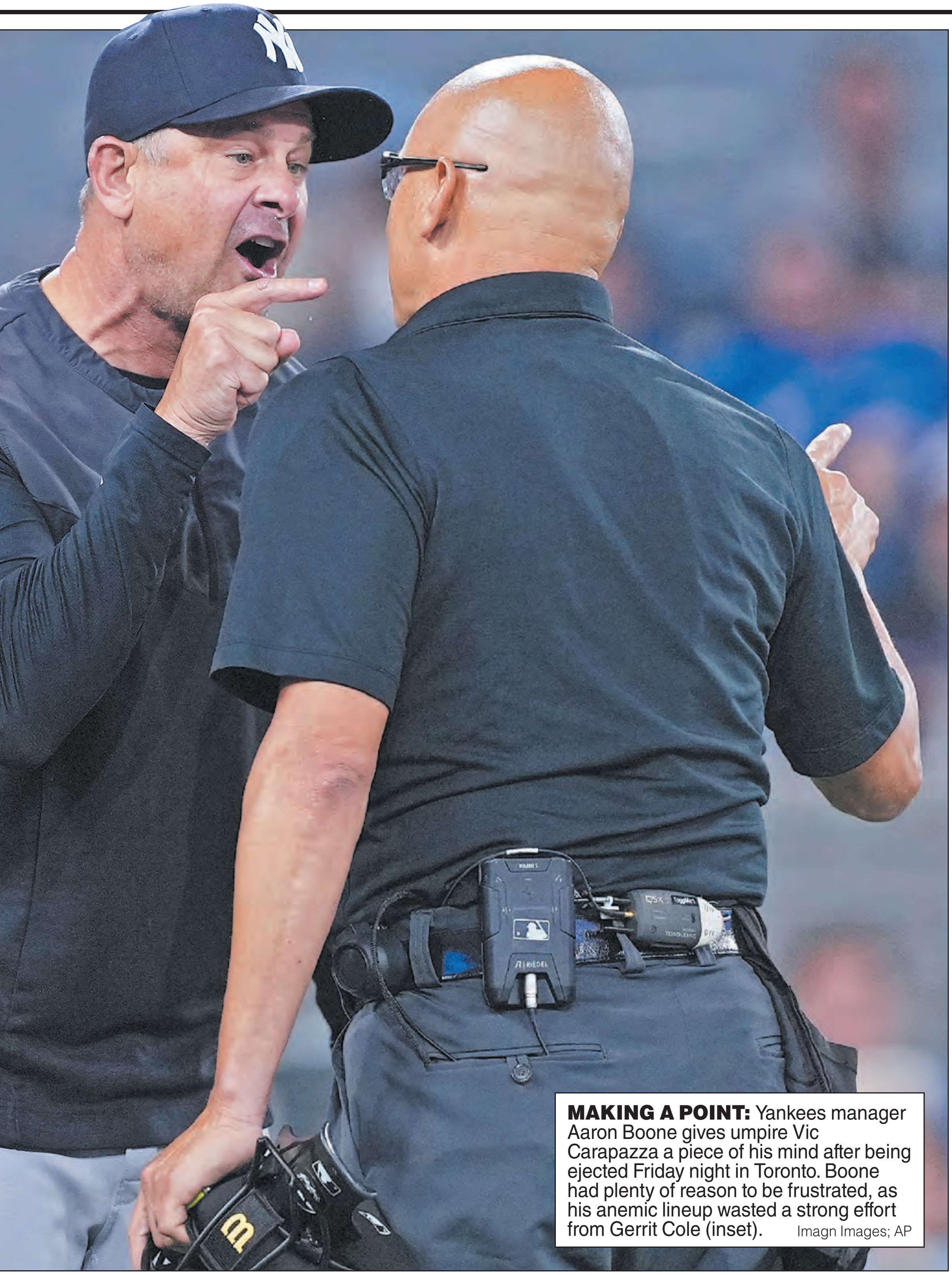

MAKING A POINT: Yankees manager Aaron Boone gives umpire Vic Carapazza a piece of his mind after being ejected Friday night in Toronto. Boone had plenty of reason to be frustrated, as his anemic lineup wasted a strong effort from Gerrit Cole (inset). Imagn Images; AP

outfielder still can't buy hit

been more encouraging.

Entering Friday, of the 15 balls he had put in play as a member of the Yankees, Ramos' average exit velocity was 93.8 mph, a tick up from his season average (92 mph) that ranks in the 88th percentile. He added to that tally Friday with flyouts on exit velocities of 106.6 mph, 102.1 mph and 96.7 mph. But of the 10 balls he has now hit at 95 mph or higher — registering as hard-hit balls — nine have gone for outs.

"OK for not having any results, really," manager Aaron Boone said of Ramos' at-bats. "He's squaring the ball up a fair amount. He's just got to get some to fall and get him going, get him settled a little bit more. I haven't felt like, 'Oh man, he's struggling,' even though he obviously hasn't gotten results. Because there's been a number of balls he's hit on the screws, lined out to right, lined out to center some.

"He's having competitive at-bats. He's had some tough matchups in there along the way as well. He doesn't feel like a guy that's scuffling to me."

Rehabbing Bellinger: 'Advancing very well'

By GREG JOYCE

YANKEES NOTES

TORONTO — The end of Cody Bellinger's stay on the injured list is beginning to come into sight.

Almost exactly three weeks removed from suffering a Grade 2 hamstring strain, the Yankees outfielder went through a full pregame workout early Friday afternoon at Rogers Centre, doing defensive work in left field and running the bases close to full speed before later taking batting practice.

If he continues to respond well to the increased workload, Bellinger could "be in line for a rehab [assignment] sometime next week," manager Aaron Boone said.

"I feel really good," Bellinger said before the Yankees opened a series against the Blue Jays with a 3-1 loss. "Today was a really good day, so I'm advancing very well."

CODY BELLINGER

Bellinger indicated he is still experiencing some tightness in his left hamstring, but he has felt better every day while trying to push the envelope as much as his body allows. On Friday, that included testing the hamstring on the turf (which can often be unforgiving for players dealing with leg issues), and it "went way better than I expected."

"I was doing a lot of defense with [outfield/third base coach Luis Rojas] — breaking in, breaking back, first step was good," Bellinger said. "Bases went well. So defensively, it was my best day effort-wise."

Once he is cleared for a rehab assignment, Bellinger might only need a few games before he returns to the Yankees lineup, given that he has not been out of action for too long.

➤ **Aaron Boone** picked up his 50th career ejection Friday rather quietly, then took the field to get his money's worth.

Boone claimed he simply told home plate umpire **Vic Carapazza** in the top of the sixth that a pitch to **Luis García Jr.** was low. When Carapazza asked what Boone said, the manager repeated himself and got the hook, at which point he went to meet Carapazza face to face and argue in more heated fashion.

"Quick trigger," said Boone, who leads the AL with four ejections this season. "That was the first time I said anything. Obviously, there were a lot of challenges early, rightfully so. I just said, 'We can't challenge everything.' He asked what I said. I said, 'I just said it was low.' You saw how innocuous [it was].

"It's a tired toss with a guy that was struggling early on in this game."

➤ **Angel Chivilli**, who had been a pleasant bullpen surprise up until a clunker in his last outing before being demoted to Triple-A earlier this month, may not be available to come back up any time soon.

The reliever landed on the injured list Friday at Scranton/Wilkes-Barre with "some posterior elbow stuff going on," Boone said.

"So he'll be seeing the doc here in the next day or two," Boone said.

Chivilli only appeared in one game at Triple-A after he was optioned there last week.

➤ **Carlos Rodón** (left elbow inflammation) "looked really good" in his second rehab start Thursday night, Boone said, though it sounds like he may need at least one more before he returns. The left-hander built up to 58 pitches across 4 $1/3$ scoreless innings with seven strikeouts and one walk with Double-A Somerset.

"Talking to the pitching group, they've felt like he's in the best physical place he's been in all year the last couple weeks," Boone said.

So why not bring him back up for his next outing?

"It's complicated," Boone said. "It's not something I want to go into here necessarily, but just trying to look at the schedule and how it lays out and what makes the most sense. There's a lot of factors other than, 'Bring him,' which we might do. Obviously, he's not fully built up yet. So we're still talking through that the next couple days."

➤ **Luis Gil** (right shoulder inflammation) made a second rehab start Friday with High-A Hudson Valley — throwing 30 pitches across two scoreless innings — three days after his first outing when he threw 13 pitches in one inning. If Gil is going to help the Yankees at all the rest of the way, it is likely to come in a bullpen role.

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TRUE MEANING

To Harbaugh, every game carries Giant significance — even preseason

Paul Schwartz

John Harbaugh

THERE WAS a bit of an edge in John Harbaugh's voice as he recounted to The Post the finality of an impressive yet strange achievement, now resigned to history, never quite understood during its lifespan.

Harbaugh's Ravens somehow compiled a 24-game preseason winning streak, starting in August 2016 and ending in August 2023 (there were no preseason games during the 2020 COVID summer). Every detail is not locked into his brain, but Harbaugh was fully aware how that streak was snapped.

"I know it was the Commanders and they celebrated like it was their latest Super Bowl victory," Harbaugh said, sounding a bit bemused and still rankled.

The 29-28 loss was sealed by Joey Slye's 49-yard field goal with nine seconds remaining.

"Is that what happened?" Harbaugh said, shaking his head. "Damn."

What this means for the Giants and Harbaugh for Saturday's preseason opener against the Vikings is not absolutely significant and not completely irrelevant. When the Giants were courting him, how Harbaugh approached preseason games and his uncanny success in them was not paramount in anyone's mind. Yet it comes as no surprise that if there is a game to be played and a score to be kept, Harbaugh is interested in finishing on top — always.

This is someone who concedes nothing. He does not back off from working his players hard and long; they buy in because he is so skilled explaining to them the importance of the labors. There is no in-between with Harbaugh and he does not appreciate it when anything less than full-bore is insinuated.

Just the other day — Thursday — Harbaugh put the Giants through a walk-through practice. The decreased pace was obvious, yet Harbaugh recoiled a bit when it was suggested that the session was half speed.

"They seem half speed to you?" Harbaugh scoffed, as if "half speed" was a disgraceful accusation. He explained, "It was a no-physicality practice. It was a timing practice, as much as possible, with no physicality."

What goes down this weekend is not Harbaugh's debut with the Giants. That comes Sept. 13 against the Cowboys in the season opener. This is a trial run for him and his newly assembled coaching staff. Given Harbaugh's sensibilities, it should be expected that he plays quarterback Jaxson Dart and all healthy starters more than a handful of snaps, in this game and the next two preseason games.

This will not be, he insists, scratching the itch to get his Giants on the winning track, right away.

"Yeah, I'm not gonna downplay that," Harbaugh told The Post, "but I don't think you try to do anything extra special to try to win the game. You don't play your starters longer, you don't bring 'em back in the game, you'd never do that. You just try to play your best football and hopefully we can play our best football and it's good enough, with our whole team, our 90-man roster, to win the football game against another whole 90-man roster of a very good football team, one of the best teams in the NFC. That's kind of the deal."

The deal is also this: Harbaugh wins in the preseason with unnatural frequency. He was 48-16 in his 18 years with the Ravens, a ledger he says is "something to be proud of." He theorized that "we usually had a quarterback in the fourth quarter that could run around and make plays" as one reason why he rules the summer games.

"I think we generally play good defense and that helps you," Harbaugh said. "We usually had a deep roster and we had good practices. Maybe we were ahead of other teams early in training camp a lot of times, if I was being honest about it."

Being ahead of the pack now is meaningful only if it leads to early-season success. Harbaugh was 12-6 in season openers with the Ravens. The Giants the past 15 years are 2-13 in season openers. For them, 0-1 is a way of life that Harbaugh is on the scene to extinguish.

Harbaugh's 24-game preseason winning streak soared past Vince Lombardi's 19 consecutive wins with the Packers from 1959-62. The day it ended for the Ravens — August 21, 2023 — Harbaugh's postgame media session was filled with feistiness. He castigated those who called preseason results inane exhibitions: "Because you never played the game, you never were out there fighting for a spot on the team and yet you have the audacity to say the effort somebody puts into that to fight and win a game like that is meaningless."

Three years later, these fiery words were read back to Harbaugh.

He seemed pleased.

"I stand by those statements," he said, grinning.

"The point of it is, it's meaningless to you, fine, but that doesn't make it meaningless," Harbaugh said, getting riled up. "It's not meaningless to the guys playing in the game. It's not meaningless to the people coaching in the game, either.

"There's probably a few fans, and there's probably a few bettors that really care too."

Probably. But not more than the head coach.

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Three things to watch

Vikings at Giants
Saturday, 1 p.m.
WNBC 4
WFAN (101.9 FM)

1 **Odell Beckham Jr.** will play in a Giants uniform for the first time since Dec. 2, 2018. He somehow never played at MetLife Stadium as a visitor. The cheers he receives during introductions, and any time that he touches the ball, should be regular-season-esque. But he also is fighting to make the team and show, along with fellow veteran wideouts JuJu Smith-Schuster and Braxton Berrios, that he has something left in the tank.

2 Defensive coordinator Dennard Wilson won't tip too many secrets, but how is versatile rookie LB **Arvell Reese** deployed? In coverage? Rushing the quarterback on blitzes or off the edge? Filling run lanes? All three? Three other top 75 picks — RG **Francis Mauignoa**, CB **Colton Hood** and WR **Malachi Fields** — are expected to make their NFL debuts and have a chance to fill significant roles on this team.

3 Not that the offense wants to stall out in field goal territory but it could help settle the kicker battle between second-year pro **Ben Sauls** and undrafted rookie **Dominic Zvada.** Kicking has been a sore spot for the Giants for three straight seasons. Zvada reportedly is 54-for-58 in training camp, including a walk-off 62-yard field goal this week. The Giants haven't felt a need to add a veteran this summer.

— Ryan Dunleavy

New look offense ready for first test

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

The next time someone tells you that NFL preseason games are just a source of meaningless overreactions, try issuing a reminder that it took four passes for the Jaxson Dart Hype Train to reach full speed last summer — and it hasn't slowed down yet.

By the time the rookie dropped an introductory 28-yard touchdown pass in the bucket to complete an 80-yard drive featuring two scrambles, Dart had shaved some time off the expected number of weeks he had to wait on the bench behind Russell Wilson.

So, while the result of Saturday's 1 p.m. Giants-Vikings clash at MetLife Stadium soon will be forgotten, certain tones will be set. And good vibes — let's call them "points scored" — are needed (especially but not exclusively on any series led by Dart) for the new Matt Nagy-coordinated offense that has looked out of sync for most of training camp.

Preseason offenses are usually vanilla by design but ...

"He's definitely aggressive. He's definitely wanting to create explosive plays," Dart said of Nagy. "But the big thing is he wants to always stay ahead of the sticks. That's the big point of emphasis that we have. Any negative plays, whether it may be penalties [or] loss of yardage on a run or sacks, he's really big on minimizing those things. I think that as an offensive coordinator, when you're able to get your players to do that, it definitely helps him feel like he's in control of the game, helps our offense get into a flow."

GET IT GOING! Jaxson Dart and the Giants are still learning new offensive coordinator Matt Nagy's offense, but they'll look to get "into a flow" Saturday against the Vikings. Corey Sipkin

Head coach John Harbaugh didn't commit to playing his offensive starters given the risk of injury, but it sure sounded like he recognized the importance of Dart and Nagy building a rhythm and gaining confidence before facing the Cowboys and Rams in Weeks 1 and 2, respectively.

The same could be said for Nagy establishing an in-game rapport with passing game coordinator Brian Callahan and running game coordinator Greg Roman. The starters don't need to be in to accomplish that goal.

"That's the crux of what we have to consider," Harbaugh said. "A big part of it [is] executing a new offense but also a young quarterback. He's just getting started. And we're going to be playing two of the best teams in our conference right out of the gates. And so we'd like to be ready for that. So, that's part of the consideration."

Giants fans still are haunted by the way that once-promising quarterback Daniel Jones turtled under coordinator Jason Garrett during his second season and never came out of his shell. Patrick Mahomes' regression from superhuman to stardom over the last two seasons — when Nagy was the Chiefs' non-play-calling coordinator — is adding to the anxiety.

"Coach Harbaugh is letting his coaches build a system that is very unique to all of them," backup quarterback Jameis Winston said. "I can compare it to gumbo. There's just so many good mixes in there."

Nagy, Callahan and Roman brought to the Giants a very different and more under-center system than what Dart commanded last season. The growing pains are seen in the sacks, interceptions, pre-snap penalties and three-and-outs during 11-on-11 practice periods.

Only about half of the offense has been installed, according to Nagy, who last called plays regularly as Bears head coach. Chicago fielded one top 20 scoring offense from 2018-21.

"You have to decide what's best for that player and for our offense," Nagy said. "But at the same time, we want to also look at, schematically, where do we see this thing going? Now it gets to this point where we're just trying to load up as much film as possible, as many plays as possible, for us to evaluate and try to see, 'What do our players do well and how do we accentuate their strengths and make us the best team possible?' As we create this identity of what and who we're going to be."

The primary thing that Harbaugh's Giants want to be is physical on the ground.

Offensive line coach Mike Bloomgren rejected the idea that the defensive line "generally" has gotten the better of the blockers on run plays in camp, saying, "When we do it right up front right now, we have guys that are moving people pretty well."

The best way to make that case is for the offensive line to open holes for Tyrone Tracy Jr. and Cam Skattebo during their preseason snaps. Just like the best way for the Giants to prove that their new offense will work is to score points with Nagy calling plays for Dart.

"He's calling every play," Nagy said of Dart. "He's seeing it when he says it. He's not just listening and memorizing it. When you can get to that point and you start seeing guys talk like this in the huddle, they're speaking to the person, he's there. So, he's aced that part. Now we've got to get it to the part of seeing the defense and taking it to the next level."

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McFadden ready to play after foot injury ended '25 early

GIANTS NOTES

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Presented with only two options about how he anticipates feeling shortly before 1 p.m. kickoff Saturday — choked up or amped enough to run through a brick wall? — Micah McFadden laughed.

"I don't think it will be emotional," McFadden said. "I think it will be the second one."

McFadden returns to the field for the Giants against the Vikings after suffering a season-ending Lisfranc foot injury in the first quarter of Week 1 last season. It's safe to say this moment is a long time coming.

"I was thinking about it recently, it's almost a year since that happened," McFadden said. "I'm excited, feeling ready to go play. Foot feels good moving around out there. Just getting a hold of the defense and learning all the nuance to it. Trying to learn all the positions and just understand it holistically so I can play fast."

McFadden, a two-year starting inside linebacker, only logged 12 plays in his contract walk year. He re-signed a one-year, $3.75 million prove-it free agent deal and then lost his starting job when the Giants drafted first-rounder Arvell Reese to pair with free agent addition Tremaine Edmunds.

"At this point, it's just control the controllables," McFadden said, "and be ready when the opportunity is called."

McFadden isn't starting from scratch because new defensive coordinator Dennard Wilson's system contains similar terminology and responsibility to what he was drafted into for Wink Martindale (2022-23).

"It's a sense of security knowing that I have three guys I can put out there and we can play at a high level," linebackers coach Frank Bush said.

"Micah is a pro's pro. When he's out there, there are certain things we do that he's an example for the rest of the guys in the room [because] he does it right and I can use that film as teaching film. To his credit, he's embraced his role, he's making plays and he's putting pressure on us to put him out there. It looks like he's fully back."

➤ If the starters play, others like McFadden who will be returning from a season-ending injury include OLB **Kayvon Thibodeaux**, S **Tyler Nubin**, LT **Andrew Thomas**, RB **Cam Skattebo**, CB **Nic Jones**, OG **Evan Neal**, OT **Josh Ezedu** and TE **Thomas Fidone**.

WR **Malik Nabers** (knee) and C **John Michael Schmitz** (concussion suffered in training camp) are unlikely to return just yet.

Imagn Images

KID KLUB'

'Poised' young QB impresses in surprising preseason start

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Well, we know the Jets offense can move the ball on the Buccaneers backups, even with their second-string quarterback.

The Jets were without starting quarterback Geno Smith, who is dealing with an ankle injury, Friday night and that left rookie Cade Klubnik to start the preseason opener against Tampa Bay. Klubnik was surrounded by the rest of the starting offense and led a 12-play drive that ended with a field goal. He then got a series with the backups and they scored a touchdown on four plays.

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JETS	**16**

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In all, Klubnik went 5-for-7 for 56 yards on 16 snaps. The performance increased his chances of winning the backup quarterback job. Those chances jumped up even more when Bailey Zappe replaced Klubnik and threw two interceptions, one that was returned for a touchdown.

Jets coach Aaron Glenn said Klubnik was "champing at the bit" to play and was excited when he told him Thursday that he would be starting. Glenn called it a "thumbs up" for Klubnik.

"I thought he did a hell of a job, not getting a lot of reps with the ones [in practice]," Glenn said. "I give him a lot of credit for going out there and operating the way that he did."

Klubnik's performance was a highlight, but other than that the Jets did not get many answers about their team since the Buccaneers sat all of their starters and Smith did not play in the 24-16 loss.

Smith was a surprise scratch before the game. Glenn said Smith has a "sore ankle" and is day to day. The Jets could have used a series or two to feel good about their offense after some rough joint practices this week against the Buccaneers.

The Jets went 65 yards in 12 plays on the opening drive but the drive stalled on the 9-yard line and Cade York kicked a 27-yard field goal to make it 3-0. Klubnik looked comfortable on the drive outside of a botched handoff. His first pass was a 12-yard completion to tight end Mason Taylor. He then threw a strike to Garrett Wilson on third-and-8 that Wilson caught after making a leap for a first down.

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Jets rookie David Bailey (No. 31) is double-teamed by Luke Haggard (left) and Benjamin Chukwuma during the first quarter.

Bill Kostroun

It was a good performance for Klubnik, the fourth-round pick out of Clemson. Klubnik did not seem fazed by his first NFL game.

"Although I'm a young player, I think I'm poised," Klubnik said. "I don't feel like I get really flustered from big games and big moments and stuff like that."

It was a positive night for Wilson, who missed the final 10 games of last season with a knee injury. Wilson looked like himself and not only converted that third down but another one on the drive, an 11-yard completion on a crossing route.

It looked like Breece Hall was going to score an easy touchdown after he broke outside but he stumbled after gaining 14 yards and went out of bounds at the Bucs' 9-yard line. Klubnik had a chance to hit Wilson for a touchdown but he sailed the ball over his head and out of the end zone.

York made a 27-yard field goal and later hit a 38-yarder at the end of the first half that looked like he may have actually missed it. The officials took a few seconds before declaring the field goal good. York is competing with Jason Sanders for the kicking job. Sanders made a 47-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

The starting offense headed for the sideline after that first drive but Klubnik remained in with the backups. This time, the Jets found the end zone but Klubnik did not have to only had to throw one pass. Braelon Allen put a nice cutback on the Tampa defense and went 31 yards for the touchdown and a 10-0 lead with 2:06 left in the first quarter.

Klubnik exited the game with a firmer grip on the backup job.

"He has some moxie to him," Glenn said. "He's very confident. He's confident in his arm. He's confident in his ability to elude and make plays with his feet."

Zappe replaced Klubnik and threw an interception to Ayden Garnes, who returned it 47 yards for a touchdown to tie the game at 10-10. Zappe threw another interception on the next series, but this one was not his fault. Receiver Arian Smith let the ball bounce off his hands and Rashad Wisdom picked it off.

The Jets starting defense played two series and allowed one first down. They were facing all backups, including third-string quarterback Connor Baselak. Baker Mayfield was in street clothes and backup Jake Browning was injured this week.

Will McDonald had a highlight, sacking Baselak on third down to end Tampa's first series. Rookie sensation David Bailey had a quiet debut. He played just eight snaps and had one tackle and one quarterback pressure. The Buccaneers did give the rookie a lot of attention, double-teaming him on one play and chipping him on another.

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Jets takeaways

■ **Garrett Wilson** looked like himself Friday night. After losing the last 10 games of 2025 to a knee injury, Wilson has been full speed this summer. He had two catches for 32 yards, one of them a leaping grab. Both catches were third-down conversions.

■ It is clear that **Isaiah Williams** has passed rookie Omar Cooper on the depth chart. Williams opened the game with the starters, alongside Wilson and Adonai Mitchell at receiver. Williams has had a strong camp while Cooper has been quiet. Cooper did have two catches, including one for 26 yards.

■ One position battle to watch has been safety. **Andre Cisco** and **Dane Belton** are competing for the starting job opposite Minkah Fitzpatrick. On Friday, Cisco started but it was notable that he was the only starter who stayed in the game when the backups entered. He and Belton played together with the second team.

— Brian Costello

Glenn: Geno's sore ankle 'nothing to be alarmed about'

By BRIAN COSTELLO

JETS NOTES

The return of Geno Smith will have to wait.

Smith was held out of Friday's preseason opener against the Buccaneers with what coach Aaron Glenn called a "sore ankle."

"It actually happened to him in the last joint practice with Tampa [on Wednesday]," Glenn said. "Nothing to be alarmed about. He'll be day to day."

Glenn said he told Smith on Thursday that he was not going to play as a precaution after Smith told the team his ankle was sore. The plan had been to play all the starters.

Smith gets another chance to play next Friday in Pittsburgh against the Steelers if he's healthy.

The Jets traded for Smith in March, acquiring him from the Raiders along with a seventh-round pick in exchange for a sixth-round pick. Glenn immediately said Smith would be the Jets starting quarterback. It's a return to the Jets for Smith, who was a second-round pick of the team in 2013 and played for the Jets from 2013-16.

Smith has been shaky so far in training camp and has had a bad week of practices, first against his own defense and then against the Buccaneers in joint practices.

Glenn may have been nervous about putting Smith on the field against Tampa's defense, which was all backups. It can be dangerous when guys just trying to make the team are on the field against starters.

Cade Klubnik started with Smith out and played two series before Bailey Zappe replaced him. The Jets have Klubnik, Zappe and Brady Cook at quarterback behind Smith. Klubnik, a fourth-round pick from Clemson, is the favorite to win the No. 2 job behind Smith, but it is still possible general manager Darren Mougey will swing a trade for a veteran backup before the season starts Sept. 13.

Zappe threw two interceptions in the game, including a pick-6.

Cook, who started four games last season, was the third quarterback in the game oFriday night and went 9-for-15 for 108 yards.

➤ Jets rookie CB **Mory Bamba** had a good night. Bamba had four passes defensed and also had four tackles. Bamba left briefly to be evaluated for a concussion but returned to the game.

"He's the one that really stands out," Glenn said, "and it's not just what he did on defense, but he did some good plays on special teams too."

Rookie backs up his moxie in Gang debut

GETTING TO THE POINT: Cade Klubnik runs upfield during the first half of the Jets' 24-16 preseason loss to the Buccaneers. AP

Steve Serby

SO what if it was the Bucs reserves. The Kid was ready. Kid Klubnik was ready.

Cade Klubnik was ready for his preseason NFL debut Friday night when Geno Smith's sore ankle prevented him from being ready for his preseason Jets homecoming.

Klubnik was informed Thursday by Aaron Glenn that he would be the starter, and when the moment arrived, with his wife and parents in the MetLife Stadium stands, the boyish voice in his head said: "Let's go play some football."

David Bailey, the second pick of the NFL draft, the talk of training camp, didn't register a sack in his two series against quarterback Connor Bazelak, although he managed to unveil a spin move and stop the run on the first series. And the Bucs double-teamed him into the turf on one pass play. He will be a problem.

But the night, a 24-16 Jets loss, would belong to the fourth-round pick out of Clemson, the quarterback who regressed in 2025 and became a veritable afterthought in the scouting and personnel communities to the Ty Simpsons and the Carson Becks and the Drew Allars and, of course, Fernando Mendoza.

There was no deer-in-the-headlights look on Cade Klubnik.

Klubnik (5-for-7, 56 yards) was relieved after two series and 16 snaps by Bailey Zappe, but not before he stamped himself as the odds-on current backup to Smith.

"I've always just loved football, and I love the game and I get so excited," Klubnik said. "Everybody gets nerves, everybody gets butterflies, but, like, for me, I just feel like I've always been really excited to play the game. You train all year long and, like, you get so many opportunities to really put the pads on, put the helmet on and really go play. For me, my whole life I've just been really excited on game days, I've never really been really nervous."

Klubnik is armed with self-confidence, moxie and mental toughness, even if he isn't armed with the biggest arm. No idea whether a regular-season game will be too big for him. This game wasn't. "I'm a winner," Klubnik said back in May.

Klubnik is a student of the game and OC Frank Reich has gushed about his poise and maturity. Klubnik checked significant boxes on Bill Parcells' list of Quarterback Commandments: He was a three-year starter, had a better than 2:1 TD: INT ratio (73-24), completed more than 60 percent of his passes (64), started more than 30 games (40) and won more than 23 games (26).

Klubnik talked about the peace that his faith gives him.

"Although I'm a young player, I think that I'm poised, and I don't feel like I get really flustered from maybe big games in big moments and stuff like that," he said.

Spoiler alert: General manager Darren Mougey and Glenn should not resist adding a security blanket veteran backup QB who makes sense. A hold-the-fort guy should Smith be sidelined so that Kid Klubnik doesn't have to be thrown to the wolves while trying to save Glenn's job.

Zappe didn't help his cause with a pick-6 and a deflected interception on a pass to Arian Smith.

Klubnik engineered a FG drive on his first possession with the starters and a TD drive on his second.

"He has a moxie to him," Glenn said. "He's confident in his arm, he's confident in his ability to elude and make some plays with his feet."

"I was happy and proud at the way he operated."

He showed nice mobility bootlegging to his right and finding TE Mason Taylor on his first throw. On third-and-8, he stood poised in the pocket and ripped a 21-yard completion thanks to a twisting Garrett Wilson on a ball behind him.

"It was no surprise to see him make a play like that," Klubnik said. "It's fun to watch."

Klubnik found Wilson again for 11 yards on third-and-5 before firing high for Wilson in the end zone on third-and-goal.

When Braelon Allen took a 31-yard handoff to the house for a 10-0 lead, there was Klubnik pumping his fist and sprinting to the end zone to join the celebration.

He talked about getting to the line faster, and taking a shot when it presented itself. Ever the perfectionist. Of course, Glenn would not concede that the backup QB competition was over. But he did say this about Klubnik: "I was happy and proud at the way he operated."

Amen.

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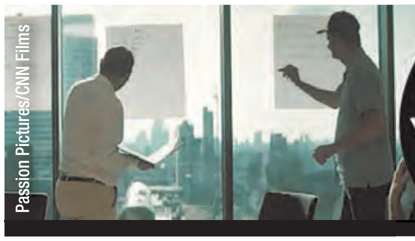
GIFT OF GRAB: Garrett Wilson, who finished with two receptions for 32 yards, makes a catch over Buccaneers defensive back Damarion Williams during the first quarter. Bill Kostroun

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"The Salisbury Poisonings: A Spy Next Door" (HBO Max) leaves us wanting a little more in-depth analysis, but as a Wikipedia-style narrative catch-all, it's a nicely informative condensing of events.

OUR CALL: STREAM IT



Passion Pictures/CNN Films

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WHAT TO WATCH

At first glance, Netflix's enchanting new period drama **"My Brilliant Career"** feels like just the latest in a long line of modern adaptations that drop anachronistic needledrops and sexy scenes to appeal to contemporary audiences. However, the themes of "My Brilliant Career" — based on Miles Franklin's semi-autobiographical novel of the same name — are specifically about what it's like to feel like a young woman far ahead of your time.

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

AN UNGODLY TRANSFORMATION

Charlie Bushnell says Luke will look 'rough' in 'Percy Jackson and the Olympians' Season 3

By HOPE SLOOP

'Percy Jackson and the Olympians" Season 3 is almost here and Charlie Bushnell is warning fans that Luke is going to be in bad shape.

Chatting with DECIDER at San Diego Comic-Con about the upcoming season — which is set to premiere in November on Disney+ — Bushnell shared that after the catastrophic attempt to revive the Titan Kronos from the dead, Season 3 might just feature the demigod son of Hermes (Lin-Manuel Miranda) in the trenches.

"I feel like Luke kind of failed Kronos pretty miserably last season and Kronos kind of put him in his place for it," Bushnell said. "I think that's the first time Luke has ever experienced that and so I think in between the end of last season and now, Luke has been working overtime to try and make things right and climb back up the ladder and get back on Kronos' good side."

At one point in the Rick Riordan book that Season 3 is based on, **"The Titan's Curse,"** Percy (Walker Scobell) says that Luke looks so rough that he might even feel bad for him if he didn't hate his guts. That directly contrasts with Luke's appearance in the second season and the second novel in Riordan's "Percy Jackson" book series, **"The Sea of Monsters,"** in which he was dazzling and country-club ready after being promised riches and power by the spirit of Kronos.

As for how disheveled the fans will see him after letting down the rogue titan, the young actor teased that fans should brace for Luke to look like he hasn't slept, eaten, or done any of the self-care that gave him his shimmering appearance in Season 2 while aboard the Princess Andromeda.

"I mean without saying too much, the first scene we see him in, he's looking rough. He's lookin' rough. And he's no longer got his nice, like, you know, cruise skinny jeans, the nice Ralph Lauren sweater. He's pretty beat up. He looks like he hasn't showered in months," Bushnell teased with a laugh.

Gone are the days of Luke being on top of the world, especially as he fights to fall back into Kronos' favor. The third season will see him still playing one of the big bads as he and his group of heathens try to start a war over Olympus, bringing down the Gods who have sat for millennia. This season also features Luke back with his old friend Annabeth (Leah Sava Jeffries), although it's a hostage situation, as Luke and Kronos attempt to lure Percy into taking on a weight of epic proportions (fans of the book will understand that reference).

In the meantime, viewers will have to sit tight and wait for the third season to see just how bad Luke is looking and feeling in his quest to bring down the Gods. Will this finally be the year they succeed?

The first two seasons of "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" are streaming on Disney+. Season 3 premieres on Nov. 20.

Left: Charlie Bushnell in "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" Season 2. Below left: Bushnell and Walker Scobell. Below: Scobell and Leah Sava Jeffries.

Disney+

Netflix

TRENDING NOW

David Letterman has rounded up another starry roster for the upcoming installment of Netflix's **"My Next Guest Needs No Introduction with David Letterman."** Season 7, which is set to drop later this year, will see Letterman sit down with **Jimmy Kimmel** (left), Julia Roberts, Matt Damon, and Alex Honnold.

WHAT'S NEW

ON HALLMARK CHANNEL

"**Aussie at Heart**," starring **Rhiannon Fish** and **Daniel Lissing** (left).

ON LIFETIME

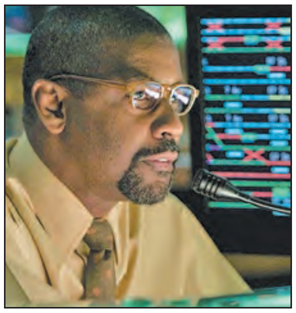
"**The Daughter She Left Behind**," a new thriller movie.

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

ACTION

Independence Day: 8 p.m. on AMC. Will Smith, Bill Pullman. The aliens are coming and their goal is to invade and destroy Earth.



THRILLER

The Taking of Pelham 123: 8 p.m. on VH1. Denzel Washington, John Travolta. Armed men hijack a N.Y.C. subway train, holding the passengers hostage.

DRAMA

Signs: 11 p.m. on AMC. Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix. A former reverend living with his children on a farm finds mysterious crop circles in their fields.

Saturday August 15, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Weekend News	Entertainment Tonight		WNBA Basketball: Minnesota Lynx at Las Vegas Aces from Michelob ULTRA Arena. Live.				48 Hours: Murder in the Parking Garage (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) 1JD Films
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Paid Program	LX.TV: 1st Look	American Ninja Warrior: National Finals 1 (R)				Dateline NBC		News 4 New York at 11	Saturday Night Live (R)
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	MLB Baseball: Boston Red Sox at Pittsburgh Pirates from PNC Park. Live.						The 10 O'Clock News		The 1% Club: Yes We Can...Get it Wrong (R)	
7 WABC	7	7	7	(6:00) News	Jeopardy! (R)	Wheel of Fortune (R)	9-1-1: Eat the Rich (R)		9-1-1: Spiraling (R)		9-1-1: The Sky Is Falling (R)		Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	AKC Good Dog TV	Extra		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Finally Caught: Gouldin (R)		In Depth	Wonderama
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	College Kickoff 2026		PBR Team Series: Nashville, TN Live.				PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		Seinfeld: The Airport	Seinfeld: The Pick
13 WNET	13	13	13	GZero World	Ireland in Music	Inspector George Gently: Blue for Bluebird			Rebel Without a Cause (1955, Drama) James Dean. NR ★★★½				(10:56) Dr. Jack and Mr. Nicholson (2019)	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Compass	Drive By	Firing (R)	Midsomer	(8:46) Midsomer Murders		(9:35) Velvet: Today Is Valentine's Day			Ireland	Papa Ray's
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Walkin NYC	Hospitality and Politics		92Y on NYCLife		Letter of Introduction (1938) NR ★★			Mack	Profiles	GZero
31 WPXN	31	3	531	NWSL Soccer Live.				NWSL Soccer: Orlando Pride at Portland Thorns.				NWSL Live.	Law & Order: SVU	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	Fútbol Liga MX: Toluca vs Atlante F.C. desde Estadio Banorte.					Fútbol Liga MX: Juárez vs Monterrey.				Fútbol Liga MX	
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Dateline: Asesinato en La Casa Gucci				Transportador 2 (2005, Acción) Jason Statham. ★★½				Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Pawn Stars	Last Man	Last Man	Fire Country		NCIS: Hawai'i: Lost		Judge Judy	Paid	Women Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	Storage (R)	Storage Wars: Back (R)		Storage Wars: Back (R)		Storage Wars: Back (R)		Storage Wars: Rad Fads		(11:04) Storage Wars (R)	
AMC	54	43	231	(5:30) I, Robot (2004, Science Fiction)			Independence Day (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith. PG-13 ★★★						Signs (2002) Mel Gibson.	
BBCAM	71	101	189	The Princess Bride (1987) Cary Elwes.			Robin Hood: Men in Tights (1993, Comedy) Cary Elwes. PG-13 ★★★					The Princess Bride (1987) Cary Elwes.		
BET	37	54	270	Equalizer	The Equalizer		The Equalizer: Lifeline		Just Mercy (2020, Drama) Michael B. Jordan. PG-13 ★★★					
BRAVO	18	44	185	Revolution	(6:57) The Matrix (1999, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne. R						The Matrix Reloaded (2003) Keanu Reeves. R ★★★			
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)		American Greed (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		Real Time with		Decades in Sports		Decades in Sports		Real Time with (R)	
COMEDY	45	50	190	The Office	You're Cordially Invited (2025, Comedy) Will Ferrell. R					Daddy's Home (2015, Comedy) Will Ferrell. PG-13 ★★★				Brothers R
DISC	66	27	120	Exp Unknwn	Expedition Unknown (R)		Expedition X (R)		Expedition X (R)		Expedition X (R)		Expedition X (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Big City	Camp Rock 3 (2026)			(8:45) Kiff	(9:10) Kiff	Phineas	Phineas	Phineas	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Transform.	Transformers (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf. PG-13 ★★★						Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) ★★½			
ESPN	28	36	70	Women's La	ESPN Films	Banana Bal	Banana Ball: Indianapolis Clowns vs. Bananas Live.				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	The Ocho	USL Soccer Live.				ESPN Films		World Series of		World Series of	
FBN	43	106	117	Dream Car	My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car		My Dream Car	
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		My View with Lara Trump		Fox News Saturday Night		Gutfeld! (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
FREE	38	49	199	(5:20) Ralph Breaks the Internet (2018)			The Lion King (1994, Family) James Earl Jones. ★★★½				The Lion King II: Simba's Pride (1998) G ★★½			
FS1	400	99	83	MLB Game	ML Pickleball: Newport Beach Playoffs: Saturday				Indycar NICS Qualifications: Markham			MLB Baseball Replay.		
FX	10	40	53	(5:30) Guardians of the Galaxy (2014)			Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (2017, Action) Chris Pratt. PG-13 ★★★						Guardians Galaxy Vol. 3	
HALL		191	240	(6:00) Catch of the Day (2025)			Aussie at Heart (2026, Romance) Rhiannon Fish.				Toast to Italy (2026)			
HGTV	64	98	165	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Extreme Buyers Club		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	The Secret	The Secret: Up In Smoke		The Secret (R)		(9:02) The Secret (R)		The Secret: Hot Pursuit		The Secret: Heating Up	
ID	23	171	123	Feuds	Feuds Turned Fatal		Fatal Vows		Fatal Vows		Fatal Vows		Fatal Vows	
LIFE	62	45	140	You Can't Take My Daughter (2020) ★★			Taken from Me (wt) (2026, Thriller)				(10:03) Abducted by My Teacher (2023) Averie Peters.			
MeTV	33	33	3	Stooges	Stooges	Stooges	The Land Unknown (1957) Jock Mahoney. NR ★				Batman	Batman	Star Trek: Omega Glory	
MSG	27	87	78	NY Giants	USL Soccer				MSG Shorts	MSG Shorts	MSG Shorts	MSG PM	United Fight Alliance	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(4:30) FanDuel Racing							Fight Sports WC Boxing: Mike Tyson Invitational 2			
MSNOW	14	23	103	The Beat	The Weekend		Connect with Jacob		Crooked on MS NOW		Rachel Maddow		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Bang	The Waterboy (1998, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★½				Billy Madison (1995, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★½				The Waterboy (1998) ★★½	
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		Catch Smuggler: Secret		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	Half-Blood	Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (2010, Adventure) Daniel Radcliffe. PG-13 ★★★½							Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	Inside Fix	Iyanla: The Inside Fix		Iyanla: The Inside Fix		A Ring On It: Cheathab		A Ring On It: Cheathab		Iyanla: The Inside Fix	
PARMT	36	56	54	Top Gun (1986, Action) Tom Cruise. ★★★			(8:05) Top Gun: Maverick (2022, Action) Tom Cruise, Jennifer Connelly. ★★★½						Django Unchained (2012)	
SNY	26	60	77	MLB Game	Post Game	Jets Spec.	NFL Preseason Football: Tampa Bay Buccaneers at New York Jets. Replay.						Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	The Super Mario Bros. Movie (2023)			M3GAN (2023, Horror) Allison Williams. PG-13 ★★★				Five Nights at Freddy's (2023) Josh Hutcherson. ★★½			
TBS	8	39	52	(5:15) Pretty Woman (1990, Romance)			Just Go With It (2011, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★½					(10:22) No Hard Feelings (2023) R ★★★		
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) Rebel Without a Cause (1955) NR			West Side Story (1961, Musical) Natalie Wood. NR ★★★½					(10:45) Sex and the Single Girl (1964)		
TLC	52	28	139	(6:00) Most	Most Extreme (R)		1000-lb Sisters (R)		1000-lb Sisters (R)		1000-lb Sisters (R)		1000-lb Sisters (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(5:30) Jurassic World (2015, Action) ★★★			All Elite Wrestling: Collision: Collision 8/15/2026 Live.				Jurassic World (2015, Action) Chris Pratt. PG-13 ★★★			
TVLAND	85	34	241	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	USA Sports	NASCAR Cup Series: Cook Out 400: from Richmond Speedway. Live.						USA Sports	NASCAR Americana		Pigeon (R)
VH1	19	52	217	(6:00) College Road Trip (2008) G ★½			The Taking of Pelham 123 (2009, Action) Denzel Washington. R ★★½					Air (2023, Drama) Matt Damon. R		
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Endgame		NCIS: Power Down		NCIS: Child's Play		NCIS: Faith		NCIS: Ignition	
YES	53	89	76	YanksExtra	Home Plate	Brooklyn	Yankees	Sportico	Homegrown	Talkin'	MLS: Necaxa at New York City FC. Taped.			
HBO	511	301	400	Murder on the Orient Express (2017)			Normal (2026, Action) Bob Odenkirk. R			(9:35) Whitmer Thomas		(10:40) Batman Begins (2005, Action)		
MAX	531	371	420	(5:08) The Rock (1996) R		(7:25) Rampage (2018, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Naomie Harris. PG-13 ★★½								Atomic ★★½
MGM Plus	595		395	(6:15) Beverly Hills Cop III (1994) R ★★			The 40-Year-Old Virgin (2005, Comedy) Steve Carell.				Talladega Nights: Ballad (2006) ★★★			South Park
PARSHO	551	321	365	Get Hard (2015, Comedy) Will Ferrell. R			The Hangover (2009) Bradley Cooper. R			(9:45) The Hangover Part II (2011, Comedy) R ★★★				Hangover 3

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METS FAN FAVE HUSKEY DEAD

UTILITYMAN WORE NO. 42 WHEN JACKIE ROBINSON'S NUMBER WAS UNIVERSALLY RETIRED / P. 40

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2026
NEW YORK POST
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HAR'BALL!

Preseason

MEANINGLESS? NOT TO HIM

48-16

Harbaugh's exhibition record

Giants fans to get first glimpse at new coach's style in preseason opener

VIKINGS AT GIANTS

PRESEASON ● 1 P.M. ● CH. 4

PAUL SCHWARTZ / PAGES 46-47

Corey Sipkin; Getty Images

BOMBERS 'O' FALTERS AGAIN

PAGES 44-45

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